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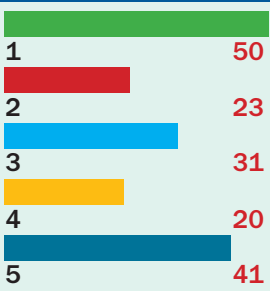
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Sunday, January 20, 2013

INSIDE

LOCAL



Marianas Pacific Distributors, Inc. is celebrating its 40th anniversary.

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ASIA



An inaccurate map causes a U.S. Navy ship to run aground in the Philippines.

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LIFE & STYLE



Daniel Radcliffe has really left Harry Potter behind.

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NMC posts 8 percent enrollment increase. **PAGE 5**

AS CNMI LURES 'NEW' INVESTORS WITH PROMISE OF 'GREEN CARDS'

Existing foreign biz feel 'abandoned'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Dozens of small-to-medium foreign investors that have been operating grocery stores, wholesale firms, laundry shops, car rentals, apartment rentals, small hotels, tire shops and beauty parlors in the CNMI for years and decades are facing loss of immigration status after Dec. 31, 2014. They said they feel "abandoned" by the CNMI government, which is now trying to lure "new" foreign investors that have at least \$500,000 to spare in exchange for U.S. lawful permanent residency or "green card" under the EB-5 program.

» **Administration:**
We recognize investments already made

"We are the ones needing immigration status to continue to do business in the CNMI after 2014, after investing a lot of money in the CNMI. Once our E2-C status expires, what will happen to us?" said Ting Jian Tang, owner of Kevin's Department Store and Kevin's Construction, and president of the 40-strong Chinese Investors Association.

Press secretary Angel Demapan, when asked for comment, said the Fitial administration "recognizes the investments thus far by existing businesses."

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Senate yet to decide whether to discipline Ayuyu

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The Senate has yet to decide whether to discipline Sen. Juan Ayuyu (Ind-Rota), who has been in detention for a month now on new charges related to the first case of attempting to smuggle endangered fruit bats, in light of a Jan. 11 Office of the At-

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SSH's Coco-Yo Company is JA competition champ

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Saipan Southern High School emerged as the big winner in this year's Junior Achievement competition

» **KHS' Jolisa Pangelinan named President of the Year**

after being hailed as the contest's Company of the Year awardee during the awarding rites Saturday at Saipan World Resort. The Manta Ray group, headed by their president Yoshi Yagi, also bagged the Best in Presentation

and Commercial award as well as Best in Annual Report award.

SSH's Coco-Yo Company topped the competition after demonstrating excellence in manufacturing and promoting their product called "Treasure Nut," sold to tourists as souvenir items from

See **CHAMP** on **Page 4**

MONETH G. DEPOSA

Saipan Southern High School's Coco-Yo Company employees pose for a group photo with the competition judges during awarding rites Saturday. The 25-member group emerged the big winner this year after being named the Company of the Year awardee.

ON THE EVE OF HIS SECOND TERM

Obama cites commitment to service

RELATED NEWS

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'You can make it if you try' **PAGE 16**

► **Dear Mr. President:**
One glimpse of your nation. **PAGE 18**

By DAVID ESPO
AP SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

WASHINGTON (AP)—On the brink of a second term, President Barack Obama invoked Martin Luther King Jr.'s commitment to service Saturday as inauguration-goers flocked to the capital city for a distinctly American celebration including an oath-taking as old

See **OBAMA** on **Page 4**

President Barack Obama stains a bookshelf at Burrville Elementary School in Washington, Saturday, Jan. 19, 2013, as the first family participated in a community service project for the National Day of Service, part of the 57th Presidential Inauguration. AP



Local

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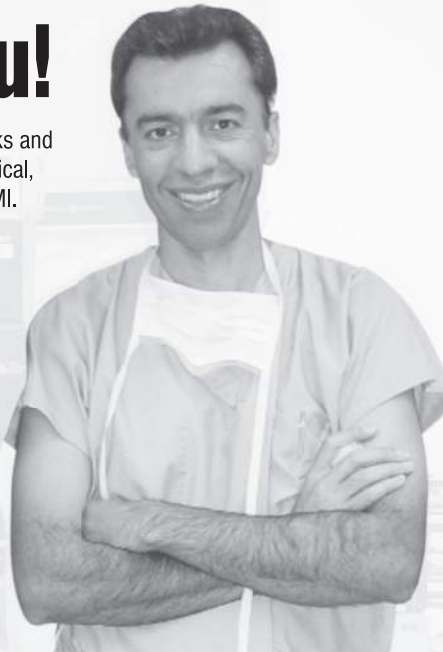
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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

EY Corp. owner Tolkach Evenii, standing second left, and representative Mustafa Shakir, left, listen to the board during a meeting and public hearing last Thursday.

Zoning Board defers decision on proposed synthetic skating rink

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Zoning Board has agreed to postpone its decision on a conditional use permit application that would allow a company to operate a synthetic skating rink on island.

The board approved during its meeting and public hearing Thursday to delay the decision on the application of EY Corporation, which seeks to operate a skating facility, classified as outdoor amusement, on a public land located next to the basketball court across the House of Justice and north of Saipan World Resort along Beach Road in Susupe. The area is zoned as public resource.

Present at the meeting were board chair Diego Blanco, secretary Gus Kaipat, members Mable Ayuyu and Bruce Bateman, board counsel Tere-sita Sablan, Zoning Office staff, and office counsel Kate Fuller. Board vice chair Herman Sablan and treasurer Alice Igitol were both off-island.

Zoning administrator Therese T. Ogumoro said in an interview Friday that the board voted in favor of the Zoning Office's recommendation to postpone the decision on the matter until such time that government agencies with jurisdiction over the proposed project such as the Historic Preservation Office and the Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture are invited to a public hearing.

Both agencies are under the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs.

Ogumoro said that EY Corporation owner Tolkach Evenii, interpreter Tatiana Ilmova, and representative Mustafa Shakir presented their site development plan and other details pertaining to the proposed skating rink.

According to Ogumoro,

the applicant was attracted to the proposed site because of the "openness" of the surrounding area and its proximity to the beach.

She said the applicant checked other possible sites for the project and found the American Memorial Park grounds but discovered that they could not afford the expensive fees.

Ogumoro said the applicant did research work on the project and their proposed site, and concluded that it is feasible and safe.

A supporter of the project, businessman Ivan Ilmov, noted that he sought feedback from his teacher friends and their students on what they think about having a skating rink on island and the idea received overwhelming support.

Kaipat and Bateman raised concerns on the proposed site, saying that area has been used for years as a venue for cultural activities such as the Flame Tree Arts Festival and that the project would prevent others from using the land.

Richard and Liana Hofschneider, who both attended Thursday's hearing, expressed support for the project, which they described as a good innovation. However, they are opposed to the proposed site given its historical value.

The Hofschneiders, Ogumoro said, noted that older generations are sentimental about the area as they believe it to be an ancient Chamorro burial site and to build a skating rink on top of it would be disrespectful. They asked the applicant to look for another site.

Ogumoro told *Saipan Tribune* that the Zoning Office will work on inviting concerned government agencies once they confirm the schedule of public hearing, eyed on the first week of February to accommodate the publication of the notice of hearing.

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USCIS: Most initial CW petitions have been decided on

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Most of the initial applications for transitional Commonwealth-only worker permits have been decided on, leaving 2,213 foreign workers still without CW permits as of Jan. 15 and most of them are just awaiting further evidence from their employers. There is also less than two years to go before Dec. 31, 2014, when the number of CW1 permit

holders in the CNMI needs to be zeroed out unless the U.S. Secretary of Labor extends the transition period.

Employers have also started applying for renewal of the initial CW permits.

From Oct. 7, 2011 through Jan. 15, 2013, USCIS's California Service Center had data-entered 6,186 I-129CW petitions.

Marie Thérèse Sebrechts, USCIS regional media manager, said during the weekend that 12,495 CW1 workers are spon-

sored on these petitions filed by 1,885 different employers.

"A total of 5,025 petitions were approved consisting of 9,443 beneficiaries. A total of 576 petitions were denied, consisting of 839 beneficiaries," Sebrechts said, responding to *Saipan Tribune* request for latest statistics on the CW program.

This means that 82 percent of the CW petitions have been decided on, including those that were already denied.

"USCIS has issued decisions on most of the initial applications received other than those for which we await further evidence from the petitioner/employer," Sebrechts said.

The number of CW petitions

is not static as USCIS continues to receive new petitions. In February 2012, for example, USCIS received some 5,000 petitions, and the number has since grown to over 6,000 petitions covering almost 12,500 workers.

The current cap on the number of CW workers is 15,000, which provides ample room to accommodate additional workers in response to an improvement in the tourism industry.

Some workers told *Saipan*

Tribune that while they have yet to receive a decision on the initial CW petitions that their employers filed on their behalf, they are not worried about it so long as they can continue to work legally for their employer. But they said it would be better if they have a CW permit in their possession.

Meanwhile, as of last week, the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Is-

lands, and the Society for Human Resource Management-CNMI have yet to receive formal response to their Dec. 20, 2012 letter requesting USCIS to ease its rules, particularly on the requirement that workers should stop working if they do not have a renewal CW permit past the expiration of the original permit, despite submission of renewal application ahead of the initial permit's expiration date.

High surf warning still in effect

The Emergency Management Office reminds the public that the high surf advisory it issued over the weekend remains in effect until 6pm tomorrow, Jan. 22.

EMO said that strong northeast winds will increase to near-gale at times through Monday night. Combined seas of 10 to 12 feet will rise to 13 to 15 feet by Monday.

The EMO notice also stated that its small craft advisory remains in effect until 6am Wednesday. Hazardous surf of 9 to 12 feet along north-facing shores will build to 11 to 14 feet and surf will remain

hazardous through at least Tuesday. Northeast winds are projected to rise to 25 to 30 knots through Monday night. Combined seas will build to 13 to 15 feet by Monday.

EMO warns the public to avoid venturing near exposed reefs and beaches, especially those along north-facing reefs as rip currents are life-threatening. Mariners, especially those operating smaller vessels, should avoid boating in these conditions. If travel by boat is necessary exercise caution especially near reef lines and when entering or leaving harbors and inlets. (PR)

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OBAMA

From Page 1

as the republic, a splashy parade and partying enough to last four years.

"I think we're on the cusp of some really great things," Vice President Joe Biden predicted for a country still recovering from a deep recession.

Freshly built inaugural stands at the Capitol gleamed white in the sun, and

hundreds of chairs for special guests were set out on the lawn that spills down toward the National Mall as the president and vice president began their inauguration weekend.

Julius Cherry, in town from Sacramento, Calif., brought his family to the foot of the Capitol to see the area where their official tickets will let them watch the public ceremonies on Monday.

"There were people who said they'd never vote for an African-American

president," the 58-year-old lawyer said. "Now they've voted for him twice, and he won the popular vote and the electoral vote. That says something about his policies and his team."

"And the country," added Cherry's wife, Donna.

Said Erika Goergen, from the Midwest and attending college locally: "It's amazing to be here right now."

Officials estimated that as many as 800,000 people will attend Monday's

public ceremonies. That's more than live in the city, if far fewer than the 1.8 million who were at Obama's first inauguration in 2009.

The president made only a glancing reference to race as he spoke at an elementary school not far from the White House after he and first lady Michelle Obama stained a bookcase as part of a national service event organized by the inaugural committee.

"We think about not so much the in-

auguration, but we think about this is Dr. King's birthday we're going to be celebrating this weekend," the president said.

"He said everybody wants to be first, everybody wants to be a drum major. But if you're going to be a drum major, be a drum major for service, be a drum major for justice, be a drum major for looking out for other people," Obama said of the civil rights leader whose birthday is celebrated as a national holiday on Monday.

SENATE

From Page 1

torney General opinion stating that Finance should continue to pay Ayuyu's salary, subsistence allowance, and staff and office expenses unless the Senate suspends or disciplines him.

Senate President Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian) has assigned the Rules and Procedures Committee chaired by Sen. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) to review the matter and make recommendations to the full Senate, but there's no telling how

soon the panel could turn in its recommendation.

Absent any action from the Senate, Finance should continue to pay the senator's salary, subsistence, staff and office expenses in the same manner it did before Ayuyu's incarceration, the OAG said.

"With recent developments, I have assigned the Rules Committee to look further into the issue and will make recommendation to the full Senate," Hofschneider told *Saipan Tribune*



Ayuyu

yesterday.

As a lawmaker, Ayuyu receives an annual salary of \$39,300, \$76,000 in annual discretionary funds that lawmakers use to hire staff and for office operations, and a \$4,200 monthly subsistence allowance.

Sen. Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota) separately said in her "personal opinion," the Senate should "wait for a court decision on his case before deciding on disciplining him such as expulsion."

CHAMP

From Page 1

the islands. The product, which costs \$8 apiece, was showcased at a recent trade fair where the company posted a profit of over \$300.

For Yagi, there's nothing more fulfilling than to see the group's hard work paying off. All three major awards, including Best in Presentation and Commercial and Best in Annual Report, he said, are proof that the 25 members worked together as a team.

There were three public high schools that competed in this year's contest.

Kagman High School's Express It! was recipient of the Best at Trade Fair award, while the group's president, Jolisa Pangelinan, was named the President of the Year after demonstrating excellent leadership and capability in the actual handling of an enterprise.

The 18-year-old entrepreneur lauded the support and cooperation of each of the 17 members of the company. She praised the JA program for giving her one of the best experiences in her life. She said it is her dream to become a successful entrepreneur later on.

Besides Pangelinan, four members of the company bagged other individual awards: Jadrien Lotoc as Finance

Vice President of the Year; Carlo Ballasteros as Human Resource VP of the Year; Brandon Santos as VP Marketing of the Year; and Malaina Kileleman as VP Production of the Year awardee.

Meantime, the competition's Perseverance Award went to Marianas High School's Fuerte Vici company and its member William Guan was hailed Public Relations VP of the Year awardee.

The Junior Achievement program aims to cultivate work-readiness, entrepreneurship, and financial literacy among students by engaging them in the practical experience of running a business. This year, three school teams joined the competition that ran from

January to April with the goal of bringing to the table a unique product for consumers.

According to Frances Ulloa, PSS event coordinator, the competition marked another successful year of the JA Program in the CNMI. She said PSS will invite private schools to participate next year. Seeing the hard work and products of all the teams makes Ulloa confident that the JA program will produce more and more business leaders and entrepreneurs for the CNMI.

Besides the major awards, PSS also presented certificates of recognition to all program partners in government and private businesses who mentored

that Ayuyu and another individual tried to smuggle eight fruit bats from Rota to Saipan in October 2010.

That recommendation, however, was made prior to Ayuyu's detention.

Ayuyu, 48, has been in continued detention pending his trial on new charges of obstruction of justice, tampering with witnesses, and attempting to destroy evidence related to his first case of attempting to smuggle endangered fruit bats from Rota to Saipan.

Ayuyu missed the inaugural session of the 18th Legislature and couldn't be given a committee chairmanship because he remains in detention.

the school teams.

The JA program was revived in the CNMI through the collaboration of PSS, Junior Achievement of Guam, Northern Marianas College, and the Commonwealth Development Authority.

This year, the student companies are led by their student management team and advised by volunteers from local businesses. Kagman High School was advised by Bank of Hawaii and YCO Corp., Marianas High School by the Rotary Club of Saipan and *Marianas Variety*, and Saipan Southern High School by the CNMI Department of Commerce, the CNMI Small Business Development Center, and IP&E.

EXISTING

From Page 1

"However, the administration is also cognizant that the EB5 incentive was geared toward investors who could make a capital investment of at least \$500,000 and continuously employ at least 10 workers in the first two years," Demapan told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Demapan said that it was the U.S. Congress and not the CNMI Legislature that created the EB-5 in 1990 to stimulate the U.S. economy through job creation and capital investment by foreign investors.

Under a pilot immigration program first enacted in 1992 and regularly reauthorized since, certain EB-5 visas also are set aside for investors in Regional Centers designated by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services based on proposals for promoting economic growth, Demapan said.

USCIS approved the first EB-5 Regional Center in the CNMI—that of Triple J's Marianas EB-5 Regional Center LLC. There are two other applicants in the CNMI waiting to get approval from USCIS.

James Han, owner of QQ Car Rental and QQ Tour and Travel, said all they ask is for the CNMI government to request the U.S. government to grant a stable immigration status to existing long-term foreign investors in the Commonwealth without requiring them to put up new businesses and invest another \$500,000 each.

"We feel abandoned by the CNMI

government. ...We are already here. Protect us and take care of us. We are not interested in going to the U.S. [mainland]. We want a legal status to remain in the CNMI after 2014, and be able to enter and exit the CNMI freely if we need to, for vacation or business," he said.

Han said he has already invested some \$1 million in the CNMI since he opened his businesses.

Han and Tang were just among the dozens of Chinese business owners gathered at the Giovanni's Restaurant at Hyatt Regency on Saipan Friday to collectively air their concerns not only about the Fitial administration's recent announcement of an EB-5 regional center in the CNMI but their immigration status in general. Many of those in attendance are not members of any Chinese association in the CNMI.

They said small-to-medium businesses like them are not always represented in discussions with policymakers about CNMI immigration.

Many in the crowd at Friday's gathering said that, unlike the transitional Commonwealth-only worker program that can be extended beyond 2014, the transitional E2-C investor program that covers most long-term businesses in the CNMI cannot be extended.

They also said that Chinese investors do not qualify in the regular E2 investor program because China is not a signatory country.

"And if we want to apply for the EB-5 program, we have to be 'new' business, meaning we have to invest new \$500,000. But we already invested so much in the CNMI," Han added.

The foreign investors said that if most or all of them are forced to leave the CNMI after 2014—which they hope won't happen—hundreds will lose their jobs in the CNMI, many residents will lose income from land leases, and the local economy will suffer.

Han also pointed out that it seems "Governor Fitial is always against granting improved immigration status to long-term foreigners in the CNMI."

"We also learned from the CNMI that Kilili [Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP)] is introducing bill. That's still a long shot," he added.

Demapan said any proposal to the federal government as to how current E2C holders will be able to stay in the CNMI beyond 2014 is "something that needs to be reviewed and discussed with the stakeholders."

Wang "Stacy" Lan Lan, president of LW Corp., which owns Twins Supermarket, Garapan Happy Market, Everclean Laundry and LW Wholesale, said it is "frustrating" that the CNMI government "is not protecting existing investors." She said they have already invested some \$2 million throughout the years.

She said how the CNMI government treats its existing foreign investors will be an eye-opener to those investors planning to do business in the CNMI for the first time.

"We have been supporting the economy. We have some 40 employees. We pay taxes. We pay CUC [Commonwealth Utilities Corp.]. My business paid CUC \$600,000 for CUC alone in 2012, our biggest annual billing. And

we have U.S. citizen kids," she said.

Wang said Chinese businesses "welcome" EB-5 investors "because they will stimulate the economy."

"But the CNMI government is not protecting existing investors. It's frustrating. It will show future investors what kind of treatment the CNMI gives its longtime investors," she added.

Just like many of the gathered businesses, they said they do not have any intention of leaving the CNMI should they get a stable immigration status that will allow them to continue to do business on the islands.

Tang said it would be "painful" if Chinese businesses do not get a status beyond 2014.

"We will be forced to close our businesses. If they give us a chance to change our status, we will stay. Even if the economy is bad, we have stayed. We helped bring prosperity. We do not want to fight with anybody, like the CNMI government. But please take care of us, help us," he added.

Han also said that with all these uncertainties about investors' status, they are "holding off" on investing more in the CNMI.

"We have plans to expand but because of uncertainties, we are holding off on these plans," he said.

Ao Zhang, owner of Do Re Mi Music School and has been a businessman in the CNMI since 1992, said he hopes there will be help from the CNMI government.

Another Chinese businesswoman said existing foreign investors have been following the laws, paying taxes, hiring residents "but we are not

being protected."

"Saipan is a nice place. We want to continue to stay here, help the CNMI. But please don't forget about us... This is also our home," she said.

Some businessmen said at times they feel the CNMI government and elected officials are not thinking about the existing investors' situation "because we are not voters."

These investors said that, while they would like to seek an audience with Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, they do not want to be interfering in the ongoing impeachment proceedings against the governor. They said they are hoping the administration will know about their sentiments through the media.

Recently, the governor said USCIS' approval of the first EB-5 Regional Center in the CNMI, a program where foreign nationals may invest in the center to obtain lawful permanent residency in the United States or "green cards," is going to "revolutionize the CNMI economy."

Fitial said there are potential investors, mostly from China, who have been waiting for this opportunity to come to the CNMI to invest. At the same time, the governor said, these potential investors are looking for U.S. citizenship.

"This [investment visa program] is a route to U.S. citizenship," Fitial said.

Chinese investors who have been in the CNMI for years and decades said they hope the governor will no longer oppose any proposal from the U.S. government or anyone to grant a status to long-term foreign investors and workers in the CNMI beyond 2014.

NMC posts 8-percent enrollment hike in spring semester

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**

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REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College enrolled 1,148 full time students as of the last day of regular registration Friday, an increase of about 8 percent compared to the spring 2012 semester enrolment of 1,065.

According to the college, enrollment numbers may further increase slightly this week as late enrollees come in to register for more classes.

Registration for the spring 2013 semester was from Jan. 14, 2013, to Jan. 17. Last Friday was the last day for late registration.

"Just a few short years ago, our enrollment for the spring semester was around the 800 full time equivalency level, and now we're at about 50 percent higher than that. The higher enrollment numbers illustrate that more and more people are looking to the Northern Marianas College for their higher education and training needs," NMC president Sharon Y. Hart, Ph.D., told *Saipan Tribune*.

Full time equivalency is calculated by taking the total number of credits students register for and dividing that figure by 12 (the minimum number needed to be a full-time student).

Besides academic programs, NMC also saw a significant increase in the number of students

taking non-credit programs.

"We also continue to see strong enrollment in our non-credit programs, including classes offered by NMC's Community Development Institute, which offers short-term certificate programs in a number of professional areas," said Hart.

The college continues to increase its number of online and hybrid courses, Hart said, giving students the flexibility they need in scheduling their classes and managing personal and professional obligations.

Hybrid classes are a combination of online and on-campus instruction; students enrolled in hybrid classes meet regularly on-campus for at least 50 percent of the required contact hours with the remaining being taught through NMC Online.

According to Amanda Allen, NMC's director of Distance Learning Education, many of the online and hybrid courses offered for the spring 2013 semester filled up quickly, an indication of their growing popularity.

Leo Pangelinan, dean of Student Services, attribute the growing enrollment numbers to several factors.

"We continue to engage many students through the College Access Challenge Grant Program like the Start Smart seminars, the Cash for College Workshops and other activi-

ties," he said.

Pangelinan said the college has also stepped up its efforts to recruit adult students who have delayed enrollment for one reason or another.

The CNMI Scholarship Office has also implemented new rules requiring new scholarship applicants to attend NMC for their first two years of college in order to receive financial assistance. The college also now offers the TEACH Grant, which provides scholarship funds to students pursuing a teaching career.

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Kilili reacts to Obama's plans on guns

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) issued a statement recently in response to President Obama's plans to reduce gun violence:

"Even the Northern Mariana Islands is not safe from gun violence. So, I welcome the actions that President Obama has committed to take to make our children and communities safer here and throughout America.

"As a member of the House Committee on Education and the Workforce, I am particularly eager to address the issue of school safety, so our children and teachers can remain focused on learning and spend their time

in school without fear. I look forward to taking prompt legislative action on the Comprehensive School Safety program the President is proposing that will allow schools to hire additional psychologists and counselors and to be prepared for safety emergencies."

"I, also, want to take this opportunity to applaud our Public School System administration, our local law enforcement and public safety agencies, and our local media for the actions they have already taken to raise our awareness of how to respond when any of us finds ourselves confronted with a violent situation." (PR)

Manglona orders Mafnas to answer prisoner's petition

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona has ordered Department of Corrections Commissioner Ramon C. Mafnas to respond to a prisoner's petition for release from custody.

Manglona gave Mafnas 60 days to answer Minto Minto's petition for habeas corpus.

Minto is challenging his conviction and asking the federal court to release him from custody and vacate his conviction.

In August 2008, a Superior Court jury found Minto guilty of conspiracy to commit marriage fraud and solicitation to commit marriage fraud. The

case originated in March 2007 after Minto allegedly recruited a U.S. citizen to marry an illegal alien for money.

Minto was sentenced to 90 days in prison with 27 days credit for served.

He appealed. He argued, among other things, that the evidence was insufficient for the jury to find him guilty beyond reasonable doubt, and that the federal takeover of immigration preempted the Commonwealth marriage fraud statute at issue.

The CNMI Supreme Court has affirmed Minto's convictions. (Ferdie de la Torre)



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OAG lawyers take part in Guam training

The National Association of Attorneys General Training and Research Institute, in coordination with the Guam Office of the Attorney General, will be in Guam from Jan. 22 to 25, 2013, to provide legal training in the Pacific region, according to the CNMI Office of the

Attorney General.

Guam Attorney General Leonardo Rapadas is happy that NAAGTRI was opened up to the CNMI OAG, as well as all the islands in Micronesia, including American Samoa.

The CNMI OAG has young, hardworking attorneys who are

never dissuaded by the lack of legal training available in the CNMI; rather, they work long hours and teach themselves how best to represent their clients.

"It is training like the one that will be provided by NAAGTRI's trial advocacy that is desperately needed by each

of the AAG's employed by our office," said Attorney General Joseph San Nicolas.

NAAGTRI will conduct their acclaimed Trial Advocacy, a four-day intensive and hands on training for jury trials. This trial advocacy skills program will use the "learning by doing" teaching method. The emphasis will be on participant performance of various trial skills fol-

lowed by constructive faculty critique. Each participant will be video recorded in designated workshops for an individual review with a faculty member. In addition, NAAGTRI will also provide training to attorneys and investigators on State Agency Representation, Ethics, E-Discovery and Human Trafficking.

After months of requesting, the OAG was able to secure 20 slots to the NAAGTRI training. To ensure the cost of the training does not burden the OAG's budget, management worked hard to secure funding from private scholarships and grants in order to subsidize the training cost. The entire cost of the training will be paid for by NAAGTRI, the Pacific Judicial Council, and other grants.

Since learning about the NAAGTRI training, each attorney at the OAG has taken the necessary steps to ensure their clients, the courts, and opposing counsels know that they will be unavailable between Jan. 22 and 25. Pursuant to court rules, each attorney has also submitted their off island notice informing everyone in the legal community of their unavailability. However, San Nicolas advises the community that there will be sufficient attorneys from both the Civil and Criminal Divisions who will be able to cover any unexpected court hearings and/or matters that must be entertained. In addition, with today's technology, each attorney will be available on a moment's notice via telephone, email or text if they are urgently needed.

San Nicolas said, "The NAAGTRI training is only one of the benefits we can enjoy as members of NAAG and it is incumbent upon our office to take this opportunity to avail of the training since they seldom make their way out to the Pacific Region. This four-day training is not just a blessing; it is crucial and much needed."

Rapadas added: "NAAGTRI trainers are dynamic and are the best in their field. Our attorneys and investigators in the Pacific will greatly benefit from this training. Participants will walk away with vital up to date information and knowledge that will help them get their job done." (OAG)

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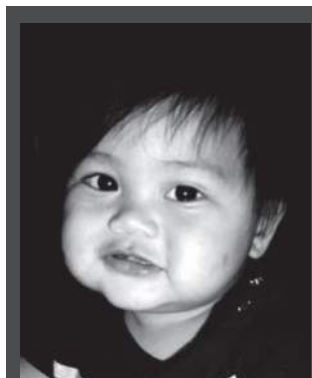
Come share your stories and thoughts about WWII caves



PUBLIC MEETING
Tuesday Jan 22, 6pm
American Memorial Park

Flinders University with National Park Service funding are holding a public meeting for landowners to express their views and opinions about preserving and protecting WWII heritage on private property and preserving their stories about the war.

If you cannot make it and want input, call
Jennifer McKinnon @ 785-9609, or after
5pm Genevieve Cabrera @ 483-0194.



BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy Christening and first birthday to our son, Jaytonn Jessiah Masga Palacios, who celebrated his birthday on Jan. 20, 2013. May you be blessed with many more birthdays to come. We love you! Greetings coming out from Mommy, Daddy, your brother Trygve, and the whole family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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CNMI Water Task Force ITB13-GOV- 062



Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos through the CNMI Water Task Force, are soliciting Sealed Bids from qualified individuals or firms for the procurement of the supply and delivery of various materials for use in the optimization of the water wellheads on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Bidders must bid on all items. A contract will be awarded to one supplier for all bid items

The procurement specifications and special terms and conditions will be available at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan on or after **January 7, 2013**.

Any questions regarding this Invitation for Bids should be addressed to Mr. Pedro Sasamoto, Program Manager, CNMI Water Task Force at (670) 664-2285, or via facsimile at (670) 664-2279 before **January 18, 2013**.

Sealed Bids must be marked "Supply of Wellhead Materials", ITB13-GOV-062 For bidders within the CNMI, an original and four (4) copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan no later than **2:00 p.m., local time, February 5, 2013**. Bidders located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days of receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **2:00 p.m., local time, February 5, 2013** and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515 or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com For bidders located outside of the CNMI, an original and four (4) copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Services or the official government postal service no later than **February 5, 2013** AND must be received by Procurement and Supply no later than **February 14, 2013**.

Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan at 3:00 p.m., local time, February 15, 2013. However, if no notices of Intent to Bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, the bids will be opened at 3:00 p.m., local time, February 5, 2013.

Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations.

This project is funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Insular Affairs. Award of a contract is contingent upon approval from DOI/OIA.

The government reserves the right to reject any and all proposal and to waive any imperfection in a proposal in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All Proposals shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/s/ Benigno R. Fitial
Governor

/s/ Herman S. Sablan
Director, Procurement & Supply

Hotel occupancy rate at 85 percent in December 2012

The Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands reported 84.60 percent occupancy among its 12 member

hotels for December 2012, a 15-percent increase compared to December 2011.

A total of 62,996 of 74,462 available room nights sold in December 2012, compared to 451,783 of 74,648 of available room nights sold

over the same period last year. Room rates were \$113.20 during the month, compared to \$103.14 last December.

“December was an excellent month in terms of occupancy, and the hotel industry is optimistic that 2013 will be

a year moving toward tourism recovery for the Northern Marianas,” said HANMI chair Nick Nishikawa. “The efforts of the industry, the government, and the community all make a difference, and we look forward to this continued partnership. Everyone has a stake in health of the industry.”

In calendar year 2012, hotel occupancy averaged 73.06 percent, 9 percent higher than 2011.

The Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands was established in 1985 as a professional forum for the hospitality industry of the NMI. (HANMI)

Bayani installs new officers

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Newly inducted president Olive Yana of the Bayani Association challenged members of the group to live up to the qualities of a hero—the organization’s namesake in Tagalog.

Bayani Association being the biggest Filipino group affiliated with the United Filipino Organization, Yana said their group is in a “better position” to serve the community if they will continue being selfless, dedicated, and willing to sacrifice for the good of the others.

Yana and the rest of the 2013-2014 officers of Bayani Association were sworn in during a ceremony at the Chalan Kanoa Beach Hotel last Jan. 12. The group is composed of graduates of the Philippine Consulate General’s training and skills upgrading courses.

Also installed were vice president Mario Mayuga, vice president-external Anna Santos De Guzman, treasurer Ana Mercado, assistant treasurer Angela Estioco, auditor Lorna Barro, public relations officers Rose Arriola and Marie Paz Caamic, and marshals Emil Garra and Reynaldo Garcia.

Yana said she is no stranger to community service, having been a member and an officer of various nonprofits in the Northern Marianas, including UFO, which serves as the umbrella network of all Filipino groups in the islands.

“It is an honor and privilege for me to accept the challenge of leadership of Bayani As-

sociatin. Your faith and confidence in my capacity to lead this organization will be my constant inspiration to continue to work harder in spite of all odds,” she said.

With last year’s closure of the Philippine consulate on Saipan, Yana noted that this would be the most challenging year in the history of their group.

“It is a sad reality but for as long as we are on the island, there is no stopping our quest to better serve our people and the CNMI community in general and in making the CNMI a good, clean, and safe place to live for everyone,” she added.

Yana said that Bayani Association will step up to the plate, serving as a bridge to assist the Guam Consulate in serving the needs of Filipinos in the Northern Marianas.

She also assured that their group will continue with the community programs they have become known for, including quarterly health screening, scholarships, cultural development, providing assistance to calamity victims, and beach cleanups.

Yana called for the “complete and unwavering support” of her fellow members, emphasizing that it is only in unity that Bayani Association can achieve its mission and goals to serve their country and the community they are a part of.

“Together and with the grace of the Almighty, nothing can be impossible,” said Yana.

Saturday’s event also served as an opportunity for the group to recognize its supporters.



IN CASE VS EX-WPS PRINCIPAL WEINDL

US govt to call in detective to testify on Internet tech

The U.S. government is planning to call in a police detective from the Plano Police Department in Plano, Texas, to offer an expert testimony in the fields of Internet technology in connection with the case against former Whispering Palms School principal Thomas Weindl.

Assistant U.S. attorney

Rami S. Badawy said that police detective Jeffrey Rich, who is currently assigned to the Plano Police Department’s Family Violence Unit, is an expert in computer forensic analysis in child exploitation investigations.

Rich is also currently assigned to the Federal Bureau of

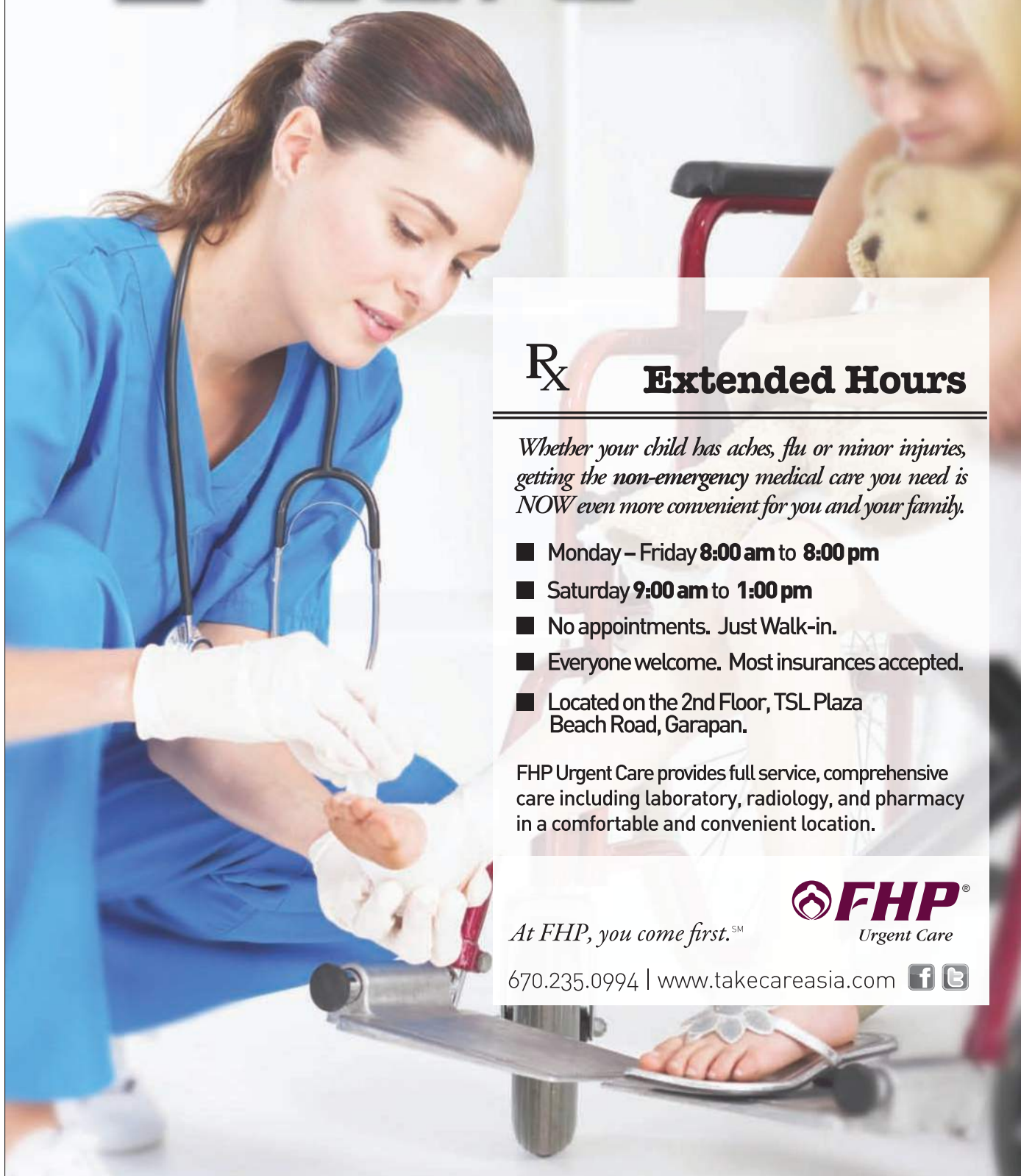
Investigation’s Innocent Images Task Force in Dallas, Texas.

Badawy said Rich will testify about how the Internet works, Internet protocol addresses, and how Microsoft Windows operating systems store temporary Internet files.

Weindl is facing charges in federal court for using a laptop

to review child pornographic materials.

The indictment charged Weindl with two counts of receipt of child pornography, and two counts of access with intent to view child pornography. He pleaded not guilty. The jury trial will be on Jan. 28, 2013. (Ferdie de la Torre)

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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-13-014

GROUND MAINTENANCE SERVICES FOR CUC WATER & WASTEWATER FACILITIES, SAIPAN

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), Office of the Executive Director is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms capable of providing Ground Maintenance Services for CUC Water and Wastewater facilities in Saipan, in compliance with USEPA inspection and sanitary survey requirements.

The Bid Package may be obtained, upon receipt of a non-refundable payment from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash or check, in the amount of \$80.00 for one set, at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked “CUC-IFB-13-014, Ground Maintenance Services for CUC Water and Wastewater facilities, Saipan” to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on February 21, 2013, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A mandatory pre-bid conference followed by a site visit is scheduled for January 31, 2013 at 10:00 AM (ChST) at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Saipan, to ensure prospective bidders are fully aware of the work involved and familiarize with the site conditions.

CUC will award a contract to more than one firm for said services, based on bids for “Service Section” pursuant to Scope-of-Work.

Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidder due to lack of information or understanding of the site conditions in the course of bidder’s preparation of a bid or performance of work under the contract. The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for services.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations. CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

All inquiries must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on February 8, 2013 to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Paul Raczkowski, Water/Wastewater Manager via address paul.raczkowski@cucgov.org

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Acting Executive Director

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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Hofschneider joins AP in Honolulu

HONOLULU—Anita Hofschneider has been hired by The Associated Press to report on state government in Hawaii.

The appointment was announced Wednesday by West Region Editor Traci Carl.

Hofschneider will fill a temporary reporting position in Honolulu and report to Hawaii News Editor Oskar Garcia.

Hofschneider worked at Honolulu Civil Beat since June 2012, where she helped with election coverage, did fact checks and wrote data-based stories. Her work included an analysis of public financial disclosures that showed Hawaii lawmakers were reporting ownership of stocks and mutual funds at a very low rate.

Originally from Saipan and a former *Saipan Tribune* intern, Hofschneider graduated cum laude from Harvard University in May 2012.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Air Force training on Farallon de Medinilla

The U.S. Air Force will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla Jan. 21-25 from 8:30am to 4pm. The public, especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators, are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated. (PR)

ARC sets health, safety trainings

The American Red Cross is scheduled to conduct Preparedness Health & Safety trainings on the following dates:

- Jan. 23 at 6pm – Adult CPR/AED
- Jan. 26 at 8am – Adult CPR/AED
- Jan. 30 at 6pm – Infant & Child CPR/AED
- Jan. 31 at 6pm – Adult CPR/AED Blended Learning

Classes are held at the chapter training room on Airport Road. Course fees apply. For more information on the courses listed or other certification courses, contact the chapter office at 234-3459. (PR)

Search on for 'Couple Married Longest'

The CNMI Chapter of the Worldwide Marriage Encounter Community is joining other Marriage Encounter groups around the United States in searching for the "Couple Married Longest in the CNMI." The Couple Married Longest search is being conducted in preparation for honoring World Marriage Day on Sunday, Feb. 10, 2013. If you have been married for over 50 years, or if you know of friends or relatives who have been, and both spouses are still living, email their names, phone numbers and wedding date to cnmiwmd@yahoo.com. The deadline for all entries is Jan. 31, 2013. The winning couple will be honored with a WWME World Marriage Day Certificate at one of the selected World Marriage Day Masses. (PR)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Jan. 21, 1999

CPA board OKs budget supplement

The Commonwealth Ports Authority board has approved a supplemental budget amounting to \$66,264 to carry out capital improvement projects on Saipan, Rota and Tinian. Of this, some \$42,264 will go to the airport while \$24,000 will go to the seaport. This include additional funding for the expansion of West Tinian Airport amounting to \$33,822. The ports authority had earlier approved a total of \$11.10 million budget for fiscal year 1999. This include an appropriation of some \$9.73 million for the airport operation, an 11 percent decline over the previous year. At least 58 percent of the airport budget goes to salaries and wages of personnel.

Pickets break up on promise of jobs

Nine Chinese workers picketing in front of the Administration Building finally agreed to disperse yesterday after immigration and labor officials promised to assist them in finding new jobs during a meeting mediated by Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio. The workers, mostly farmers from mainland China, trooped the Capitol Hill Monday just after the governor met with President Clinton's special representative, Edward Cohen, to dramatize their plight for non-payment of wages by their employer on Tinian. Immigration and labor officials spoke to the workers through an interpreter for more than an hour explaining that their case is being looked into and that they will be assisted in finding new employers for temporary work.

Jan. 21, 2000

Underground businesses under siege

In increased efforts to replenish depleting coffers and safeguard public safety, the government has stepped up moves against businesses in the CNMI that are operating without proper permit from the commerce department. The move came after Commonwealth Development Authority Chair John S. Tenorio disclosed that unlicensed businesses in the Northern Marianas are causing the government millions of dollars in uncollected taxes. Mr. Tenorio pointed out that the government is likely to see more revenues filling up the public coffers had there been strict monitoring and documentation of all business transactions in the islands.

UOG inks pact with NMC to offer business courses

The University of Guam has agreed to offer its business administration courses on Saipan through the facility of the Northern Marianas College. Since last week, NMC began offering Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration with accounting major, according to continuing education Dean Edward Camacho. The college has also started extending courses on managerial communications, management of organization, basic business finance and applied statistics. The agreement was reached following over six months of negotiations between officials of the University of Guam and the Northern Marianas College.

Jan. 21, 2002

Babauta signs first bill into law

The first bill signed into law by Gov. Juan N. Babauta since his inception into office occurred Friday during the inaugural ceremonies on Tinian. Babauta signed Senate Bill 12-104, authored by Senate floor leader Joaquin G. Adriano, during Tinian's inaugural ceremonies on Friday. It is the first bill Babauta signed into law since assuming office. Senate Bill 12-104, now Public Law No. 12-84, requires the use of safety helmets for operators and passengers of bicycles, human power vehicles, all terrain vehicles and mopeds for those under the age of 18 on Tinian. Babauta expressed that he was pleased to "make history" by signing his first bill into law on Tinian, which was authored by a senator from Tinian.

'Road works better left to mayors'

In an expression of support for the administration of Saipan Mayor Juan Borja Tudela, House Rep. William S. Torres said the local government should be empowered to take full responsibility over the repair of secondary roads, which it currently shares with the Department of Public Works. Torres said this in an interview at the Hyatt Regency Saipan, where he attended Tudela's inaugural ball Saturday night. "We would like the mayor to assume responsibility for the repair of secondary roads," Torres said. "At the present time, this responsibility is divided into the mayor and the [Department of] Public Works. We would like the mayor to assume the entire responsibility."

Congratulations

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8339



Aileen Benavidez
16333



Steve Qian
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Bobbie Cabrera
6746



Ernesto Dela Paz
3767



Geoffrey Melchor
7666



Regina Kluge
0425



Ric Villanueva
16033



**DPS Group c/o
Gizelle Nishida**
13220



Clarissa Adlawan
9373

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Day on, not a day off day

The timing is impeccable. A “day on, not a day off” service day, combined with a “yes, we can” day makes Monday, Jan. 21, 2013, special.

The “day on” has become a trademark of the celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr.’s Jan. 15 birthday, now commemorated across the country on the third Monday of January. The slain civil rights leader is the only third person honored with a national holiday, observed by all the states, along with George Washington and Christopher Columbus.

The Inauguration Day for the President of the United States is formally on Jan. 20, which falls on a Sunday this year. In this case, the formal public swearing-in occurs on Monday noon at the U.S. Congress premises, along with public inaugural events around the city. A private swearing-in takes place on Sunday with the chief justice of the Supreme Court administering the oath.

Re-elected to a second term, 44th President Barack Obama and Vice President Joe Biden performed their day of service Saturday to launch the inauguration festivities in the shadows of a national conversation on domestic tranquility and the impact of a nation’s defensively discussed “second amendment,” the right to bear arms. Also referred to as a deep tradition of a “gun culture,” casually promoted by Hollywood and buttressed deeply by children’s toys, it is falling under severe judgment as shooting incidences dramatized in the fateful Sandy Hook incident takes center stage in the national conversation.

With the Obama-Biden tandem in the Executive office, we have a silent, though deeply felt, paradigm shift in national symbols and federal policies. At the symbolic level, Obama comes as an offense to the ingrained image of *Hail to the Chief* as a sole prerogative of “White America.” It is a measure of the maturity of this nation that its last election reflected a real choice of moving to an uncharted future, but with no shortage of native confidence in wrestling the great unknown and giving it form in the creation of the new, moving away from the “no longer” into the “not yet.”

At the policy level, we have an executive officer who will not hesitate to use the powers of his office when the consensus process runs into legislative gridlock—as it has done many times in his first four years in office. A consensus is building up and the niceties of congressional process sometimes take a back seat to the urgency of a moment.

Yes, we can, focuses on citizens’ responsibility. Let our service give it form this day.

©2013 Saipan Tribune

Lance Armstrong’s legacy

Thursday night’s bid for absolution by cyclist Lance Armstrong over his use of performance-enhancing drugs—set to continue Friday as OWN founder and TV high priestess Oprah Winfrey seeks to bless her struggling network with ratings points—is, depending on the beholder, either a scoundrel’s disgraceful and far-too-late effort to salvage his career or the last gasp of a hero aiming to silence

See LANCE on Next Page

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What are our country’s goals?

All my life people have preached to me: “Goals! Set goals! Make plans to reach those goals. Work your plans!” Repeatedly they have reminded me that without goals and plans, I would flounder aimlessly around like a ship without a rudder.

So I made goals and they have led me to various destinations successfully, and, at times, not so successfully. But I always had a sense of direction. I learned early that without plans based on my goals, I would never achieve anything. As Earl Nightingale always said: “Success is the progressive realization of a worthy goal.”

What are the goals of the CNMI? What plans for achieving them does it have? Where can we get a copy of the plans? Have we decided what course of action the CNMI must take to recover? Do we have a direction? In all discussions about plans are we sharing them with the federal government? Frankly speaking, we seem like blind mice lost and drifting wildly and aimlessly.

Today we are in a serious economic depression. Our government budget is getting smaller and smaller each year. Yet our government continues to be our largest employer. Agencies do not know how many people they have. Some of the agencies find it difficult to account for the money they are given. And many do not even know the effects of their spending. Meanwhile our food stamp recipients keep getting more numerous. We have messed up all our plans for improving the CUC. Our hospital is in a coma. And we keep slapping bandages on them and call them goals.

The worst of our nightmare is that we are not striving to seriously cooperate with the United States. Instead of creating joint planning with them, we are fed scare tactics about how federalization is going to destroy us. And it will if we do not join forces to set goals and plans together.

We are frightened of what will happen on Dec. 31, 2014, about our nonresident workforce. If it becomes true we will lose the majority of our current workers in tourism and in the hotel industry and construction industry. The availability of foreign labor in the development of small island economies as the CNMI is critical. Labor mobility is just as essential to economic development and growth as is the mobility of capital, goods, services, and technology. Why aren’t we seriously discussing this major issue with the federal government while there is time?

Have we already forgotten how prosperous the garment industry was for us a few years back? And how easily it was taken away and replaced with nothing but our own meager resources? As a result, economic recovery from the devastating depression from the loss of the Commonwealth’s largest industry, the garment industry, can take decades in the CNMI.

Instability is the bane of investment and economic development. Investors have shied away or are very leery about the immediate future. One of their main concerns is will we or will we not have enough labor to man the various industries?

There is a strong possibility that economic distress will remain

By ANTHONY PELLEGRINO

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Pellegrino is a longtime businessman in the CNMI and is a former president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.



very high in the CNMI for a long time, evidenced by high rates of chosen unemployment (Why work when food stamps are free?), business closures or downsizing, and precipitous declines in local revenue. Our current government budget is only \$103 million, a huge drop from a previous high of \$270 million.

The CNMI’s prospects for economic recovery are very poor. We cannot do it alone. We must realize and begin to work closely with the federal government in any planning we do. We no longer control immigration or salary increases. We should also work closely with the U.S. military on the continued use of Tinian. We should become closer partners and share in the benefits of the use of our land there.

Remember that all of what is happening to us was done with the full federal knowledge of the likely adverse economic effects on the CNMI. We must press them to understand that the only real hope is to persuade the federal government, Congress or the courts that the United States must begin taking the CNMI more seriously. We must also press them to allow us to join them in planning our future. Without them we can achieve little, regardless of all the laws we try to pass in our own Legislature.

Let us remember that we are not a sovereign nation but a commonwealth. This is similar to a state in which our abilities to control our own destiny is limited. We are part of a larger organization—the United States! Thus we must become a part of the planning process or we will remain in a state of depression.

Once we understand our importance to the United States, we can use that as a negotiating chip. We are important to them and we must remind them. They have to understand that our success is theirs also.

We must discuss with the U.S. the necessity of repealing or modifying the statutes extending U.S. immigration to the CNMI. At least we should make a concerted effort in our discussions. We have to supply more data and proof that we are still a growing and developing island nation vital to them.

If we want to know where we will be in a few years down the road, we need roadmaps. However it seems that we are putting out bush fires instead of planning. I appeal to our newly installed Legislature to begin the goal setting and planning process immediately.

I know of no group within the administration or the Legislature that is devoted to planning our roadmap. Ask any government agen-

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EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Disposision asuntun linahyan

Nai maliñgu i inañgoghon publiku gi disposision asuntun linahyan siha, piot sa' mampos oppan usun abusu ni man-sañgan na mafattu silensiu ginen hilu', maliñgu matatiyen haf' dinanche yan tunas gi hilu' i lai siha. I konsensiaghu ta sedeyu' fumatkiluye i asuntu.

I 'nos kuantos tautau ni man-gaige gi pappan gobietnu sumagua-niye buchín niha mientras i pumalu ni man-gai direchu parehu man-ñgaha', "Kau ñgai'an 'nai para u guaha antau na modun disision 'nai interest todus' sumaunau segun i lai?"

Mampos oppan i mansañgan pot faketerian che'chu' aplacha' yan linache.

Ha kone'yu' i asuntun halom gi mana'en un' kompania lugat kaskau giya Kanat Tabla. Dos tailaye na probision gaige gi papa' i kontrata:

1. Maribaha i atkilon deste \$12 mit pesos gi sakan papa' esta \$3,000.

2. Mana'e anchu na prebillehiu gi este na puntu sa' ayu ha' 'nai siña kahulu' i apas atkilon yangin mañoda' cho'chu' i kompania ya mamatinas salape 'sino ganansia.

Hafa sustansian este na disision? Uttimoña hita ni man-dueñun tanu' umapasiye i kompania ni obligasioña. Machoneg gi san-tatte interesa nu i publiku pot huegon fatsu yan tai sustansia na areglu.

Na ti magahet na debi i Depattamentun Tanu (DPL) u faisen i kompania haf' na tax ha apase ginen i Revenue and Taxation? Ni ti magahet na debi DPL u asegura na fitme fiñkasña este na kompania antes de unna'e usun atkilon tanu' publiku para kaskau?

Kau i DPL hana'e otu parehu siha na kompania ni mismu prebillehiu yan ayudu? Haye ennau siha na kompania ya mauleg uma-publika gi gaseta pot para ta li'e.

I Offisinan Attorney General mana'e lokue obligasion umatan haf' gaige gi kontrata. Ti magpu' che'cho'na gi mafanana'an "legal form and capacity". I disision kotte klaru ha publika na este na "immunity"—'nai makubre haf' aksioña—tinatitiye ni asuntun obligasion. Este na obligasion i para u asegura na i disision favorable para iya Marianas. Diskuidu gi este na puntu ensegidas pininu' i prebillehiun "immunity".

Mampos i silensiu na usun kalulot gamsun ni kumukunanaf papa' ginen hegsu' i Deni . Ayu ha' ha sede man-mana'e cho'chu' gobietnu (projects and land leases) i inayeg ginen hilu'. Ha punu' ensegidas matatiyen lai sa' uttimoña i tautau gobietnu solu man-mana'e cho'chu'.

Mampos oppan i masañgan na solu sumaunau hau bumaila gi "matulus butsiyun" papa' lamasa 'nai siña hau gai suette cho'chu' gobietnu 'sino atkilon tanu'. Ya haf' i man-lihitumu siha na bisnis? Haf' na ti siña matatiye tunas hafa ginagagau gi lai?

Mampos te'ug i fache' sisonyan lache siha na disision ni dini-spopone ya malimite gi 'nos kuantos tautau gobietnu. Mas maliñgu i inañgoghon publiku konfiansa gi este na administrasion. Kulan mohon no siakassu kau guaha antau na areglu gi todus disposision asuntun linahyan.

Haf' na hu diskukute este na asuntu? Dañkulu interes hu na todus che'chu' linahyan debi umachogue gi hilu' dinanche yan tunas segun i mandatun lai. Este ha' solamente 'nai siña guaha satton yan kabales na inadahe gi proteksion interes publiku. Todus offisiat gobietnu ni mañasaunau gi todus klasen kontrata, pot fabor asegura na in'cheque' haf' dinanche yan tunas. Menos ke este siempre gumagama hau gi halom aplacha' na fache' linache. Ni unu gi publiku mumirese mamadese pot che'chu' linache.

■ ■ ■

Palun Tunas

Gi todus asuntun manehante, gaige giya monana un' kuestion: Haf' gaige gi konsensiamu pot para un' adelanta lina'la' prohimumu?

Pot ihemplo: Yangin ma-apunta hau kabesanten un' dañkulu na kompania. Manu impottante gi ennau na apuntasion: I mattu hau hulu' guihe na puestu pat haf' taimanu fatomu hulu' gi puntan hog-su' disposision?

Yangin ma-integra hau inañgoghu, kau un' guaddia sattun ennau na inañgoghu yan konfiansa? Mañgge konsensiamu gi ennau i solu

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Aura of hope

The inaugural speeches by several of our elected officials seem to suggest a new beginning for the 18th CNMI Legislature. There appears an aura of hope and a mark of high expectations that many good legislation would be coming and it would be just a matter of time for the indigenous voters to be reckoning who the real movers and shakers are among these elected public servants. Nonetheless, all stakeholders would be watching and waiting for what is to come in terms of legislation and resolving the real issues that emerged during the campaign season and thus establishing the criteria to evaluate legislative performance come the next election.

It is fascinating to read and break down what the messages of these well-meaning public servants are all about, even with their usual rhetoric, but one stood out very convincingly, suggesting tak-

compare that number to locally owned businesses. Why aren't we training our people to become businessmen and skilled tradesmen? In this manner we will drastically reduce unemployment and circulate more money in our community. Our people must be encouraged to work, not stand in line as beggars receiving food stamps, unless it is absolutely necessary for certain classes of people.

I am reminded of Singapore who in 1959 was one of the poorest nations in the world after England cut its ties with it. But with strong goals and plans coupled with determination from its leaders and people, Singapore now stands among the wealthiest nations in the world. Yet it has a small population and no natural resources.

But we have a most generous benefactor—the United States—and we don't understand its value. We also have acres of fertile

ing to a report in the *Wall Street Journal*, the union rejected a proposal from anti-doping authorities to create a one-month window during which cyclists could have admitted drug use without facing bans on international competition. The union reportedly nixed the idea of such a "truth and reconciliation commission" because it believes cycling has already been singled out for special attention, and another flurry of confessions would have further tarnished the sport's reputation.

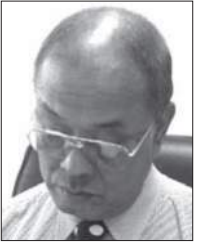
Surely other sports have gotten the message? Not baseball. No one was elected to the Hall of Fame in Cooperstown this year, largely because so many of the biggest stars of the last decade or two (Barry Bonds, Roger Clemens, Sammy Sosa, etc.) have been tainted by steroid scandals. Major League Baseball has reportedly cleaned up its act since the days when Bonds was hammering superhuman homers into McCovey Cove, with officials recently announcing that it will be the first of the four major North American pro sports to test for human growth hormone during the season. But wasn't it just last summer that Melky Cabrera of the San Francisco Giants and Bartolo Colon of the Oakland A's were suspended for using synthetic testosterone?

The problem gets less attention in basketball and football, but not because it doesn't exist. Muscles go with the job for athletes in these

By **JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.



yan likidu na inentregan tautau? Kau unna' guaguan un' prebillehiun inañgoghu ni mafattu gi hineñgen tautau?

Na'magof yangin enfin todus chumage nina' siñan niha fumachuchu'e adelanton linala' linahyan piot pa'gu na tiempu 'nai ha hogse hit sinpara i mattirun ha'ilas. Mas ha demanda antau na disposision ginen i man-ma'gasta.

Baihu repite: Hamyu ni man-mana'e atoridat gi disposision asuntun linahyan siha, pot fabot tatiye haf' dinanche yan tunas. Este solu na pisu 'nai siña ta fachuchu'e i tautau siha pot para ta adelanta kinalamten niha. Muñga na hagu mismu para un' destrosia kolat i kinilu siha gi pastahe. Ma'lag na luseru, ha'ane yan pueñge, man-i'ina sinparat pot para tali'e mona haf' tapokakate. Gu'ot kanai i prohimumu ya tapan mamokat parehu.

ing cues from the spiritual side of working out our problems. It is a rare treat to the voters that one of the lot would inject a call for spiritual calling to resolve our problems in the CNMI. "Hope" has taken a real meaning and no one would disagree that this ethical concept and context is taking shape in the minds of all members of the Legislature. Emily Dickinson once said, "Hope is the thing with feathers, that perches in the soul. And sings the tune without the words, and never stops at all. And sweetest in the gale is heard." In the Book of Jeremiah 17: 7-8, it says, "Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose hope is the Lord. He is like a tree planted beside the waters that stretches out its roots to the stream. It fears not the heat when it comes, its leaves stay green; in the year of drought it shows no distress, but still bears fruit." Our future is full of doubt, but we always have a life full of hope that never ends.

Francisco R. Agulto

Kannat Tabla, Saipan

WHAT

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cy to see its plans and goals for the agency. Ask the administration or Legislature where their goals and plans for the Commonwealth are. Yet we have so many opportunities to develop our economy but we seem to lack the determination and drive needed to make that happen.

Instead, we hope that foreign investors will come and solve our problems for us. We forget that for every foreign investor that comes here we lose that more control over our own economy. Count the number of foreign-owned businesses, whether small or large, and

LANCE

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the critics who have unfairly singled him out.

Our view leans slightly to the former, although we believe the man who was once the world's most successful cyclist has achieved at least one worthwhile and inspiring thing: his Livestrong cancer foundation. If a couple of appearances with Oprah can keep the donations flowing to a worthy cause, chat away.

But what matters more than our view on Armstrong is the way he and his actions are seen by millions of other athletes—young and old, amateur and professional—who might be tempted to follow in his footsteps. Investigators have long tended to focus on landing big fish to discourage those who might want to imitate them. Armstrong, because of his massive endorsement deals, seemingly impossible achievements and enormous fame as the man who almost single-handedly put cycling on the American sports radar screen, may be the biggest fish ever caught by doping officials. Will that be enough to help put this chemical-abuse era behind us?

Not judging by a recent decision by the Union Cycliste International, the Switzerland-based governing body for cycling. Accord-

sports, and the public seems less bothered when those gladiatorial bodies were built with the help of a syringe.






Indeed, many believe that doping shouldn't matter even for athletes such as Armstrong who compete in non-contact sports. If elite athletes want to entertain us, and maximize their own fame and fortunes, by taking substances that harm only themselves, why should anyone else care? First, because doping creates an uneven playing field in which cheaters have the distinct advantage. Allowing it would merely encourage everyone else to do it as well. Second, because sports are supposed to test the limits of human strength, agility and skill, not the talents of one's chemist or trainer. Third, and most important, because young people fall into the trap of thinking they need performance-enhancing drugs to succeed, turning kids into chemical abusers, with all the risks that entails.

Armstrong's come-to-Oprah moment, unfortunately, probably won't do much to reduce doping, even if it helps restore his reputation. And if the fall of the mighty Armstrong won't get athletes off the juice, what will? More enforcement and better detection methods are the mundane, but seemingly only, answers.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
				
Mostly cloudy and windy with scattered showers. Northeast winds 25 to 35 mph.	Mostly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 15 to 25 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲ 83 ▼ 76
Palau	Showers	▲ 85 ▼ 78
Yap	Showers	▲ 87 ▼ 79
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲ 86 ▼ 81
Pohnpei	Mostly Sunny	▲ 86 ▼ 81
Kosrae	Mostly Sunny	▲ 86 ▼ 81
Majuro	Showers	▲ 86 ▼ 80

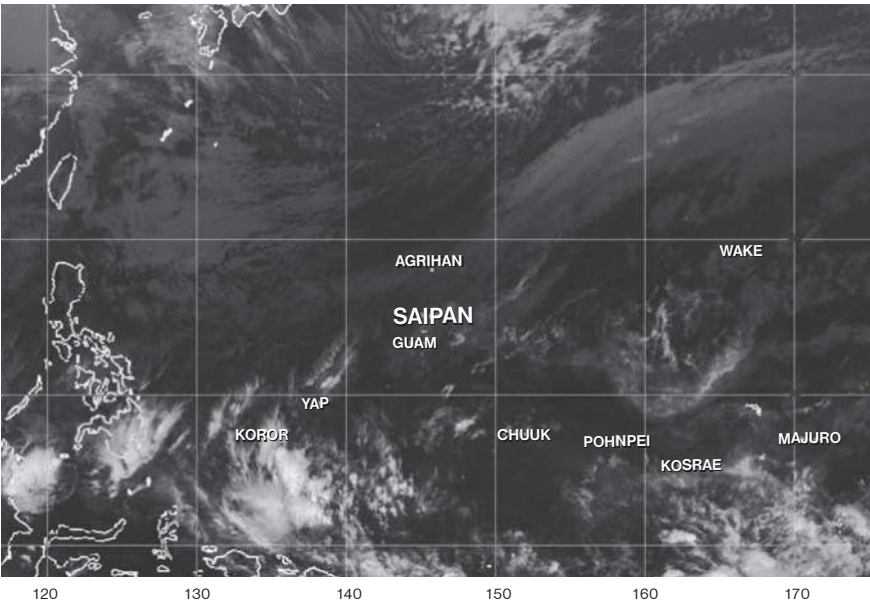
Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲ 72 ▼ 64
Beijing	Sunny	▲ 34 ▼ 18
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲ 70 ▼ 64
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲ 77 ▼ 68
London	Ice	▲ 39 ▼ 26
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲ 77 ▼ 46
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲ 86 ▼ 75
Melbourne	Sunny	▲ 82 ▼ 55
Miami	Showers	▲ 79 ▼ 65
New York	Sunny	▲ 43 ▼ 25
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 50 ▼ 36
Paris	Cloudy	▲ 40 ▼ 27
Pusan	Showers	▲ 51 ▼ 37
Rome	Rain	▲ 54 ▼ 47
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲ 49 ▼ 32
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲ 64 ▼ 43
Seoul	Ice	▲ 35 ▼ 21
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	▲ 46 ▼ 33
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲ 50 ▼ 29

Tides

Saipan Harbor			
4:44 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.4 Feet
8:55 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet
2:37 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
10:29 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, JANUARY 20, 2013

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A shear line extends southwestward from north of Wake Island at 25N163E across the Marianas,Yap and Koror to beyond 130E at 5N130E. Patchy clouds and rain are present along and up to 300 miles northwest of this boundary. A trade-wind disturbance is generating scattered showers near Guam within 75 miles of a line from 12N144E to 16N151E. A near-equatorial trough curves southeastward from 4N130E to EQ141E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found south of Yap and Koror within 125 miles of a line from 6N135E to 3N138E to 3N143E.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:47 AM	6:10 PM
Tuesday	6:47 AM	6:10 PM
Wednesday	6:47 AM	6:11 PM
Thursday	6:47 AM	6:11 PM
Friday	6:47 AM	6:12 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	1:23 PM	1:42 AM
Tuesday	2:09 PM	2:31 AM
Wednesday	2:56 PM	3:20 AM
Thursday	3:45 PM	4:08 AM
Friday	4:35 PM	4:56 AM

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- SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

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Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JAN. 7, 2013

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)	GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN
UA5070 4:35am 5:25am 2, 4, 6, 7	UA 5069 2:45am 3:35am 2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062 4:40am 5:30am 1, 3, 5	UA5071 7:05am 7:55am Daily
UA5068 8:25am 9:15am Daily	UA5073 9:50am 10:40am 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
UA5074 11:10am 12:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7	UA5075 1:45pm 2:35pm 1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076 3:10pm 4:00pm Daily	UA5077 5:35pm 6:25pm Daily
UA5078 6:55pm 7:45pm Daily	UA5079 8:20pm 9:10pm Daily
UA5072 9:45pm 10:35pm Daily	
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)	NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN
DL287 6:00am 8:40am Daily	DL298 10:25am 3:00pm Daily
DL285 6:35am 9:15am 1, 3, 5, 7	DL286 7:40pm 12:15am+1 2, 4, 6, 7
DL297 4:25pm 7:20pm Daily	DL288 8:40pm 1:15am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)	OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN
OZ119 4:00am 6:40am Daily	OZ120 9:50pm 2:20am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)	BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN
OZ608 3:10am 6:20am 4, 6, 7	OZ607 9:00pm 1:50am+1 3, 5, 6
OZ608 3:30am 6:40am 3	OZ607 9:35pm 2:25am+1 2
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)	SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN
OZ606 2:10am 6:00am 1	OZ603 9:00am 2:20pm Daily
OZ606 2:40am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ120 7:10pm 2:20am+1 Daily via KIX
OZ119 4:00am 11:20am Daily via KIX	OZ605 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7
OZ604 3:20pm 7:10pm Daily	OZ605 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)	SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN
3U8648 6:10am 8:40am 1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647 10:40pm 5:00am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)	BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN
MU7108 3:50am 7:00am 1, 5	MU7107 7:40pm 2:55am+1 4, 7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)	GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN
3U8646 4:20am 7:30am 2, 6	3U8645 7:40pm 3:00am+1 1, 5
SAIPAN-VLADIVOSTOK (VVO)	VLADIVOSTOK (VVO)-SAIPAN
XF1734 6:30am 12:30pm 5	XF1733 8:00pm 12:05am+1 4
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)	MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN
OZ606/701 2:10am 11:15am 1	OZ704/603 12:10am 2:20pm Daily via ICN
OZ606/701 2:40am 11:15am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	DL172/288 8:05am 1:15am+1 Daily via NRT
UA5070/191 4:35am 10:00am 6 via GUM	UA190/5077 10:55am 6:25pm 3, 6 via GUM
UA5070/191 4:40am 10:00am 3	UA190/5079 10:55am 9:10pm 3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173 6:00am 10:25pm Daily via NRT	OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN
UA5076/183 3:10pm 9:30pm 2, 5 via GUM	OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA5076/183 3:10pm 9:50pm 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	PR110/UA5071 10:10pm 8:00am+1 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ604/703 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN	UA184/5071 10:55pm 7:55am+1 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5072/PR111 9:55pm 7:50am+1 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	UA184/5071 11:59pm 7:55am+1 2, 5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)	HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN
OZ606/721 2:10am 11:50am 1 via ICN	OZ746/603 12:30am 2:20pm Daily via ICN
OZ606/721 2:40am 11:50am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN
UA5076/147 3:10pm 10:30pm 1, 5 via GUM	OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ604/749 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN	UA180/5071 11:25pm 10:40am+1 1 via GUM
	UA180/5077 11:25pm 6:25pm+1 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan							
FRE 17:50	18:20	Daily					
Saipan-Rota				Tinian-Saipan			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 10:20	10:45	Daily		FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily				



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com



**COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS**

Office of the Secretary
Caller Box 10007, Saipan, M.P. 96950 • Tel. 664-2576 • Fax. 664-2570

**CHILD CARE PROGRAM
OPENS FOR NEW APPLICANTS**

To: All parents and/or Legal Guardians:

The Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Child Care Program will be doing pre-eligibility assessments for new applicants. The program will open to a maximum of 300 children or slots only (CNMI wide). **For this opening, parents who are full time students with zero income will be given priority. Parents attending school, training or working will be accommodated.** Once all slots have been taken, pre-eligibility assessments will cease and applications will no longer be provided.

Pre-eligibility assessments will be done at the following locations, date, and time.

Location	Date	Time
Mt. Carmel Cathedral Social Hall	Wednesday, Jan. 30, 2013	1:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
DCCA Rota Office	Tuesday, Feb. 12, 2013	9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
DCCA Tinian Office	Wednesday, Feb. 6, 2013	10:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
For Full Time Students with Zero Income CCDF Office Capitol Hill, Saipan	On-going; every Tuesdays and Thursdays only	10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Parents and/or legal guardians who are interested in applying for the program must go through the pre-eligibility process and will need to bring the following:

- A. For Full Time Students or in Training with Zero Income:**
 - School Documents such as acceptance letter and/or class schedule
 - Must be enrolled full time (12 credits)
 - If attending ABE must provide letter from ABE Office indicating that the student is considered full time
 - In Training: must have documents indicating a minimum of 60 training hours bi-weekly
- B. For Full Time students with income:**
 - All requirements under letter A plus
 - Three (3) latest check stubs showing: Applicant’s full name, hours worked (a minimum 60 hours bi-weekly), hourly rate, and gross monthly earnings for both parents
 - Most recent 1040 Tax for the year 2011 for both parents
- C. For working parents:**
 - Three (3) latest check stubs showing: Applicant’s full name, hours worked (a minimum 60 hours bi-weekly), hourly rate, and gross monthly earnings for both parents
 - Most recent 1040 Tax for the year 2011 for both parents

Interested applicants must bring the above documents to be entertained for pre-eligibility.

The Child Care Program Office will accept completed applications beginning Tuesday, February 11, 2013 between 1:00p.m. to 4:00p.m. and the last day to submit applications will be on Wednesday, Feb. 20, 2013 at 3:00 p.m. Completed applications along with the required documents should be forwarded to the Child Care Program Office Building No. 1347 Ascension Court Capitol Hill. Incomplete applications will not be accepted.

For questions regarding the Child Care Program please call at 664-2575/664-2546/664-2576.

Full Requirements:

Applicant of Household

- Three (3) latest check stubs each parent or legal guardian (if legal guardian, must provide copy of Court Documents)
 - Applicant’s Full Name
 - Hours worked (minimum of 60 hours bi-weekly)
 - Hourly Rate
 - Gross Monthly Earnings
- A copy of Identification Card for each parent or guardian
 - Passport
 - CNMI Driver’s License
 - Mayor’s ID
 - CW 1, Employment Authorization Document (EAD), Notice of Completed Biometrics (if applicable)
- A copy of your most recent 1040 Tax for the year 2011 (each parent or guardian)
- Residency: Provide one of the following:
 - House Rental/ Mortgage
 - Utility Receipt
 - Telephone Receipt
 - CW 1, EAD, Notice of Completed Biometrics (if applicable)
- Employment verification (CCDF prescribed form)
- Training/Education Verification
 - Letter of Acceptance from Institution
 - Full time student
 - Twelve (12) Credit Units
 - Letter from ABE indicating full time status
- Notarized Affidavit indicating (CCDF Form)
 - Parent is single
 - Child Support Statement
- Status: CW1, EAD, Notice of Completed Biometrics documentation (if applicable)

Child/Children Household member:

- A copy of Birth Certificate for each child (Child must be a US citizen or a qualified alien, as defined in Personal Responsibility Work Opportunity Act (PRWORA))
- A copy of US Passport
- A copy of Social Security Card

Family Size	Income Level
1	\$931.00
2	\$1261.00
3	\$1591.00
4	\$1921.00
5	\$2251.00
6	\$2581.00
7	\$2911.00
8	For families with more than 7 persons, add \$330.00 to each additional family member

Approved for distribution: /s/ Melvin L.O. Faisao
DCCA Secretary

Date: January 15, 2013

Funding from the Office of Child Care, US Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families

Marpac kicks off 40th anniversary with highway cleanup

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Marianas Pacific Distributors, Inc. is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year with various community projects, beginning with their participation in the Adopt-a-Place program of the Saipan & Northern Islands Municipal Council.

About 30 Marpac employees, along with family members and friends, took part in the cleanup on Jan. 5 at the company's designated area—the highway intersection at Quartermaster and Middle Road.

The volunteers began their Saturday beautification project at 7am. The event involved the washing, scraping, and repainting of walls, railings, and sidewalks, as well as the cutting of overgrown vegetation in the area.

The council provided vests and cones to the volunteers, while the rest of the materials were provided by Marpac.

The distributing company is only one of several business, religious, and private groups that

have taken part in the council's program to bring the community together and build a sense of ownership among participants as they get involved in efforts to maintain their own selected places for cleanup.

Guy Pudney, Marpac resident manager, said the Adopt-a-Place program is one of the many projects and events that they have planned for this year as a way of giving back to the community's 40 years of support to the company.

"We as a community need to pitch in by cleaning areas that are most visual especially in the daily sight of our people and visitors and not always rely on our government," he said.

Pudney encouraged all individuals and companies to support Adopt-a-Place, saying that cleaning up the highways, tourist spots, and other parts of the island sends the message that someone cares about the island that everyone calls "home."

"You'll feel rewarded after seeing all the fruits of your labor," he added.



All Marpac employees get right to work.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Guy Pudney, resident manager of Marpac, scoops up sediments along the crosswalk.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Jay Diyco with leaf blower and Allen Mendiola with brushcutter.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



▲ Sales representative Jerome Aldan puts on a first coat of paint on the railing.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Sales representative Juan Maratita is shown brushcutting.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Macario Scaliem comes back for his fifth load of loose debris and sediments.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Noli Santos rakes up debris as GM Guy Pudney loosens up the sediments.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



► Vincyia Serman paints the second coat on the railings.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Business

Transcripts show Fed underestimated crisis in 2007

WASHINGTON (AP)—Federal Reserve officials in 2007 badly underestimated the scope of the approaching financial crisis and how it would tip the U.S. economy into the deepest recession since the Great Depression,

transcripts of the Fed’s policy meetings that year show. The meetings occurred as the country was on the brink of its worst financial crisis since the 1930s. As the year went on, Fed officials shifted their focus

away from the risk of inflation as they slowly began to recognize the severity of the crisis. Beginning in September 2007, the Fed cut interest rates and took extraordinary steps to try to ease credit and shore up confidence in

the banking system. Throughout the year, the housing crisis deepened. Home prices weakened. Subprime mortgages soured. As foreclosures rose, banks and hedge funds that had invested big in subprime mortgages

were weighed down by worthless assets. Many had trouble getting credit to meet their expenses. The damage reached the top echelons of Wall Street. Fears rose that the U.S. banking system could topple.

At the Fed’s Oct. 30 policy meeting, Janet Yellen, then president of the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, noted that the economy faced increased risks. But she didn’t foresee anything dire.

Aviation technology advances, FAA tries to keep up

DALLAS (AP)—After two separate and serious battery problems aboard Boeing 787s, it wasn’t U.S. authorities who acted first to ground the plane. It was Japanese airlines.

The unfolding saga of Boeing’s highest-profile plane has raised new questions about federal oversight of aircraft makers and airlines.

Some aviation experts question the ability of the Federal Aviation Administration to keep up with changes in the way planes are being made today—both the technological advances and the use of multiple suppliers from around the globe. Others question whether regulators are too cozy with aircraft manufacturers.

Even as they announced a broad review of the 787 earlier this month, top U.S. transportation regulators stood side-by-side with a Boeing executive and declared the plane safe—saying that they would gladly fly in one. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood repeated his endorsement Wednesday.

A few hours later, the FAA issued an emergency order grounding the planes.

Despite their concerns, many safety experts still believe that the current regulatory process works—the 787s were grounded before any accidents occurred.

787 lithium battery

The lithium-ion batteries on Boeing 787s are at the center of several incidents that led to grounding the Dreamliner fleet.

- Company GS Yuasa Technology, Japan
- Battery Rechargeable lithium-ion

Battery is made up of eight lithium-ion rechargeable cells connected in a series

Negative terminal

Positive terminal

Cell

Cell

Case Holds the sheets submerged in an organic solvent that acts as an electrolyte

Positive electrodes are made of lithium cobalt

Negative electrodes are made of carbon

Separator sheets allow lithium ions to pass through while keeping positive and negative electrodes apart

A lithium-ion cell is made of thin sheets of positive and negative electrodes separated by microperforated plastic sheets

When a cell charges, lithium ions move through the electrolyte, from positive to negative electrodes; on discharge, they move back; this movement happens at a high voltage, allowing a cell to produce 3.7 volts; normal AA alkaline cells produce only 1.5 volts

Fire If a separator fails, the electrodes touch, causing a short that overheats the cell; as it heats up, the cell vents the organic solvent; heat or a spark can ignite the organic solvent, causing a fire; heat from the burning cell can cause the other cells to overheat, resulting in a battery fire

Source: GS Yuasa, howstuffworks.com
Graphic: Mark Nowlin, The Seattle Times

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Explorer’s rare Scotch returned to Antarctic stash

SCOTTBASE, Antarctica (AP)—Talk about whisky on ice: Three bottles of rare, 19th century Scotch found beneath the floor boards of Antarctic explorer Ernest Shackleton’s abandoned expedition base were returned to the polar continent Saturday after a distiller flew them to Scotland to recreate the long-lost recipe.

But not even New Zealand Prime Minister John Key, who personally returned the stash, got a taste of the contents of the bottles of Mackinlay’s whisky, which

were rediscovered 102 years after the explorer was forced to leave them behind.

“I think we’re all tempted to crack it open and have a little drink ourselves now,” Key joked at a ceremony handing over the bottles to Antarctic Heritage Trust officials at New Zealand’s Antarctic base on Ross Island.

The whisky will be transferred by March from Ross Island to Shackleton’s desolate hut at Cape Royds and replaced beneath the restored hut as part of a program

to protect the legacy of the so-called heroic era of Antarctic exploration from 1898 to 1915.

Bottled in 1898 after the blend was aged 15 years, the Mackinlay bottles were among three crates of Scotch and two of brandy buried beneath a basic hut Shackleton had used during his dramatic 1907 Nimrod excursion to the Antarctic. The expedition failed to reach the South Pole but set a record at the time for reaching the farthest southern latitude. Shackleton was knighted after his return to Great Britain.

Mobil Oil Mariana Islands Inc. is a subsidiary of Exxon Mobil Corporation - the world's largest publicly traded integrated petroleum and natural gas company which operates facilities and markets products globally and explores for oil and natural gas on six continents. This is your opportunity to join this dynamic company and become part of the team that thrives in a fast-paced, controls-oriented environment as:

Aviation Project Engineer

Description:

Monitoring engineering, maintenance, construction and repair activities of the Aviation Depots upgrade projects. Managing and controlling capital expenditures and operating expenses for projects at two Aviation facilities to ensure established standards of efficiency, safety, costs and timeliness are met. Responsible for ensuring that SH&E (Safety, Health and Environment) and ExxonMobil’s internal Operations Integrity Management System (OIMS) are included in projects, to demonstrate commitment towards SH&E, OIMS, Hydrocarbon accountability and similar corporate guidelines and global practices.

Location:

Saipan Aviation Depot, Dan Dan.

Primary Job Functions:

- Site supervision which includes and requires overseeing projects' execution, coordination, preparation and implementation of the various OIMS requirements with the construction contractors, Aviation operations, Aviation operations group, suppliers, design engineers and affiliate advisors.
- Technical support for facility design, maintenance and repair activities of the Aviation Depots upgrade projects.
- Adhere to Safety, Health and Environment programs that require a dynamic and proactive approach to ensure the safety and health of the community as well as employees.
- Facilitate OIMS processes in procurement, work control and the environment to help improve efficiencies in project management.
- Interfacing with Safety, Engineering and Technical Advisor, Aviation Operations Manager, Safety Advisors, Contractors, depot personnel, Environmental and Governmental representatives.
- Maintain updated Engineering projects on Global Engineering Database and Aviation Equipment and Design Specification Manual.

Qualifications:

- Engineering education with a BS degree in Civil, Mechanical, Electrical or Petroleum Engineering.
- Experience in engineering design, engineering project management and construction management in civil or mechanical works.
- Must be familiar with computer applications in spreadsheet, word processing, project scheduling and planning, materials specifications and construction drawings.
- Understanding of Federal and Local regulations as they apply to engineering and construction.
- Good Interpersonal skills.
- Ability to communicate orally and in writing in English.

Preference will be given to candidates with the following skills:

- Experience in computer aided design
- Previous experience in Aircraft refuelling
- Previous experience in Petroleum Industry

Interested candidates should send an indication of interest to be considered to:

Marlenna Tanayan, Human Resources
642 East Marine Corps Drive, Hagatna, Guam 96910
(Fax) 671-648-3786
Email: marlenna.taitague@exxonmobil.com

ExxonMobil is an Equal Opportunity Employer

Federal law requires that we verify the identity and work eligibility of all new hires. We comply with this law on a nondiscriminatory basis.

Mobil
We’re drivers too.

Michael A. White, Esq. F0122
The Law Offices Of Michael A. White, LLC
Post Office Box 5222
Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950
Tel: (670) 234-6547
Fax: (670) 234-9537

Attorney for Plaintiff

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE COMMONWEALTH
OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

BANKPACIFIC, LTD.,)
Plaintiff,) CIVIL ACTION
) NO. 12-0076
-v-)
SEVIO T. CHARGUALAF, JR.,)
and THERESA L.G. CHARGUALAF,) SUMMONS
Defendants.)

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on January 4, 2013, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot No. 002 G 370, situated in Kagman II, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 929 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 002 G 09 dated May 31, 1989, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 90-1906, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, February 8, 2013, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 10th day of January, 2013:

/s/MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

Job Announcement

One (1) Administrative Assistant - High School Graduate. College Degree preferred w/ 5 yrs work experience. Duties to include Book Keeping work, Receive & Prepare receipts, Prepare Deposits, Renew Various Licenses & Permits, Compile & Prepare BGRT Tax Returns, Employee's QTRLY WH Tax Returns plus Federal 941 SS. Knowledge & experience w/ Peachtree Accounting Software, Prepare Lease Agreements, Business Correspondence plus other related duties. Must be reliable, dependable, good character & trustworthy. Police Clearance required.

Pls. Submit resume to Sablan Enterprises, Inc. office located @ 2nd Fl. SEI BLDG., Chalan Piao. Call 234-2585 for more information.

LIVE-IN CARETAKER NEEDED FOR ELDERLY COUPLE IN USA

Requirements:

- U.S. Passport or Green Card
- Driver's License
- Resume
- References
- Police Clearance

Salary commensurate with experience.

Please submit application package to:

Law Offices of Mailman & Kara, LLC
2nd Floor, Tan Marikita Bldg.
Beach Road, Garapan
Tel: (670) 233-0081

FIESTA
Resort & SPA
SAIPAN
A TanHoldings Company

(1) Landscaping Supervisor

Responsibilities include but are not limited to: Plans, schedule, assign and supervise the landscaping, seeding, weeding, cultivating, and general care of the hotel grounds. Plans and supervises cultivation, pruning, spraying and transplanting of a large variety of shrubs and trees. Plans and supervise operation of a greenhouse. Train and supervise crew of groundskeepers. Responsible for the maintenance of equipment used on the job site. Must have 3 years experience in horticulture or landscape architecture at supervisory level. Must have knowledge of how to protect trees and plants from diseases and insect infections. Strong customer service skills. Requires occasionally lifting of heavy objects and exposure to weather. Must be able to work a varied schedule including week-ends and holidays.

Interested applicants may send their applications to hr_@fiestasaipan.com; Applications forms may be obtained at our Security Office at the South Wing. To be considered applications must be submitted not later than January 28, 2013. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan is an Equal Opportunity Employer
Qualified Women, Minorities, Veterans and Persons with Disabilities are urged to apply.

Nation

Obama eyes a legacy: 'You can make it if you try'

By BEN FELLER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP)—Presidential terms are measured by sweeping laws and stirring events, but legacies are about enduring ideas. The one Barack Obama has in mind will drive most everything he tries to do in the next four years: assuring that America is a place where anyone can make it.

There is no moon-shot here, no call to end tyranny in our time.

What Obama wants written in the first paragraph of history is that he helped deliver a better life for the people struggling in the richest nation on earth.

His second-term agenda amounts to a wish list in support of that core idea, and this time, he is freer to define the issues.

Obama wants an immigration law that would deal firmly but compassionately with millions of illegal residents; an economic model that demands more money from the rich to shrink the debt; a tax system that is fairer and simpler for families; and a bigger emphasis on education and made-in-America energy.

The old problem of gun violence is suddenly on the list now, too, but only after an elementary school massacre led Obama into days of reflection. He concluded that the country is failing its people in another fundamental way, by not keeping even its children safe.

This is the playbook of a Democrat who thinks the basic compact between a nation and its people has been broken, who sees government as more of an aggressive force for good than a bureaucratic menace to society.

In the discussions that shape Obama's next moves, in the speeches that convey his thinking, the policy premise is usually boosting hope and genuine opportunity.

Many people have lost both. "I've got one mandate," the president said after defeating Republican Mitt Romney in November. "I've got a mandate to help middle-class families and families that are working hard to get into the middle class. That's what the American

people said: 'Work really hard to help us.'"

The American people, however, also returned Republicans to power in the House, setting up a giant clash of visions over the role of government.

Should Obama get bogged down in power struggles over the debt and spending, his overarching ideas may be shrunk along with his legacy. His influence is limited by his opponents in Congress, forcing him to scale back time and again, and frustrating him about the pace of progress.

Yet piece by piece, he is building what he is convinced voters want. He will use his powers, he says, to build a country where "you can make it if you try."

He does not have much time. Presidential capital fades after the second year of a second term.

What Obama does have is more freedom to pursue an agenda on his terms.

By the time he is sworn in again, Obama will have sworn off some of the problems he inherited.

The recession is over. So is the Iraq war, with the Afghanistan war winding down. Obama will never again have to worry about getting re-elected.

"He came into office when the American Dream was at its most maximum peril," said Obama confidant Robert Gibbs, recalling a collapsing job market and stock market. "Fixing that is likely to be a journey that will be the charge of the next several presidents. But it's his job to build a foundation."

Obama is halfway into that project.

It began with the milestones of his first term: a law extending health coverage to millions of people, taxpayer intervention to help a plummeting economy, consumer protections and Wall Street reform, and the appointment of two women to the Supreme Court, including the first Hispanic justice.

He also repealed the ban on gays serving openly in the military and became the first president to announce support of gay marriage.

Almost forgotten, by now,



Obama

Inaugural program

The order of events at President Barack Obama's second inauguration ceremony:

Music United States Marine Band

Music PS 22 Chorus, Staten Island, N.Y.; Lee Univ. Festival Choir, Cleveland, Tenn.

Call to Order Sen. Charles E. Schumer, D-N.Y.

Invocation Myrlie Evers-Williams

Music Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir

Vice presidential swearing-in Joseph R. Biden Jr. by Associate Justice Sonia Sotomayor

Music James Taylor, "America the Beautiful"

Presidential swearing-in Barack H. Obama by Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr.

Inaugural address Pres. Obama

Music Kelly Clarkson, "My Country 'Tis of Thee"

Poem Richard Blanco

Benediction Rev. Luis Leon, St. John's Church, Washington, D.C.

National Anthem Beyonce

Source: Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies
Graphic: Judy Treible

© 2013 MCT



• **Obama Bibles** Obama will place his right hand on both the Bible carried by Martin Luther King Jr. and the Bible used by President Abraham Lincoln at his first swearing-in; Truman, Eisenhower and Nixon also used two Bibles

• **Biden Bible** Vice President Joe Biden will be sworn in with a Bible used by his family since 1893

• **Poet firsts** Richard Blanco is the youngest-ever inaugural poet and the first Hispanic and first openly gay poet to read at swearing-in

• **Invocation firsts** Myrlie Evers-Williams, scholar, author and widow of slain civil rights figure Medgar Evers, is the first woman and the first layperson to deliver the invocation prayer

groups that have been marginalized," said Douglas Brinkley, a Rice University historian who has written extensively about presidents. "He is, in a way, trying to bring into the fold the last people who haven't made it."

Even when Obama looks back at the lowest moment of his re-election campaign, it is to bemoan his failure at explaining what his presidency is about. He told Time magazine that his flawed first debate against Romney never conveyed the stakes of a society in which too many have too little chance to succeed.

"Do we believe in an America that says some folks are more American than others or more worthy than others or more valued than others?" Obama said. "Or do we believe in an America where that Declaration (of Independence) means what it says: 'We hold these truths to be self-evident ... that all people are created equal?'"

Obama's legacy is already safe, Brinkley said, simply because he won again.

History is much kinder to presidents who got voter approval to finish what they started.

For Obama, Brinkley said, that means protecting Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security in a time when the country leans right-center and demands to contain the debt are soaring. "His role is to be the firewall," Brinkley said.

Even discussing one's legacy can be politically tricky for any White House.

The word itself can convey that the president is too focused on his place in history, or too close to nearing dreaded lame-duck status.

But Gibbs, who served as Obama's press secretary for the first half of the first term, said legacy-shaping is inherent in every big decision in the West Wing.

"People are exceedingly aware of the fact that, for better or worse, presidents are judged on their time in office," Gibbs said. "What are their ultimate, lasting contributions? Everybody understands that. Maybe it's the elephant in the room, but it's in each and every room."

Former AP White House Correspondent Ben Feller covered the presidencies of George W. Bush and Barack Obama

is the symbolism of Obama's presidency itself. He was the first black man to win the office.

"His progressive legacy is continuing the civil rights movements to the very last

Thousands rally against stricter gun control in US

AUSTIN, Texas (AP)—Thousands of gun advocates gathered peacefully Saturday at state capitals around the U.S. to rally against stricter limits on firearms, with demonstrators carrying rifles and pistols in some places while those elsewhere settled for waving hand-scrawled signs or screaming themselves hoarse.

The size of crowds at each location varied—from dozens of people in South Dakota to 2,000 in New York. Large crowds also turned out in Connecticut, Tennessee, Texas, Utah and Washington state. Some demonstrators in Olympia, Wash., Phoenix, Salem, Ore., and Salt Lake City came with holstered handguns or rifles on their backs. At the Kentucky Capitol in Frankfort, attendees gave a special round of applause for "the ladies that are packin'."

Activists promoted the "Guns Across America" rallies primarily through social media. They were being held just after President Barack Obama unveiled



Gun-rights advocate Anna Riding, of Lehi, Utah, holds a sign outside the Utah Capitol during the national Gun Appreciation Day Rally Saturday, Jan. 19, 2013, at the Utah State Capitol, in Salt Lake City.

a sweeping package of federal gun-control proposals.

The crowd swelled to more than 800 amid balmy temperatures on the steps of the pink-hued Capitol in Austin, where speakers took the microphone under a giant Texas flag with "Independent" stamped across it. Homemade placards read "An Armed Society is a Polite

Society." "The Second Amendment Comes from God" and "Hey King O., I'm keeping my guns and my religion."

"The thing that so angers me, and I think so angers you, is that this president is using children as a human shield to advance a very liberal agenda that will do nothing to protect them," said state Rep. Steve

Toth, referencing last month's elementary school massacre in Newtown, Conn.

Toth, a first-term Republican lawmaker from The Woodlands outside Houston, has introduced legislation banning within Texas any future federal limits on assault weapons or high-capacity magazines, though such a measure would violate the U.S. Constitution.

Rallies at statehouses nationwide were organized by Eric Reed, an airline captain from the Houston area who in November started a group called "More Gun Control (equals) More Crime." Its Facebook page has been "liked" by more than 17,000 people.

Texas law has some restrictions on where concealed handgun license-holders can carry firearms, but they are allowed at most places, including the Capitol. But Reed said rally-goers shouldn't expose their weapons: "I don't want anyone to get arrested."

ACROSS THE NATION

US warns Americans of travel dangers in Algeria

WASHINGTON (AP)—The State Department is warning American citizens about the risks of travel to Algeria and is authorizing the families of State Department staff to leave the country if they choose.

The warning comes after the Algerian government reported that special forces stormed a natural gas complex in the Sahara desert to end a standoff with Islamist extremists. Algerian officials say at least 23 hostages and all 32 militants involved were killed. In its travel warning Saturday night,

the State Department cites credible threats of the kidnapping of Western nationals and says there is a high threat of terrorism and kidnappings in Algeria.

5 hurt in shootings at gun shows in Ohio, Ind., NC

MEDINA, Ohio (AP)—Acci-

dental shootings at gun shows in North Carolina, Indiana and Ohio left five people injured Saturday, the same day that thousands of gun advocates gathered peacefully at state capitals around the U.S. to rally against stricter firearm limits. At the Dixie Gun and Knife Show in Raleigh, a 12-gauge

shotgun discharged as its owner unzipped its case for a law enforcement officer to check at a security entrance, injuring three people, state Agriculture Department spokesman Brian Long said. Two bystanders were hit by shotgun pellets and taken to a hospital. A retired deputy sheriff suffered

a slight hand injury. The shotgun's owner, 36-year-old Gary Lynn Wilson, brought the weapon to the show to find a private buyer, Long said. Sheriff Donnie Harrison said that it was too early to know whether Wilson might be charged but that it appeared to be an accident.

Asia

Japan talk of warning shots heats up dispute with China

TOKYO (AP)—Japan says it may fire warning shots and take other measures to keep foreign aircraft from violating its airspace in the latest verbal blast between Tokyo and Beijing that raises concerns that a dispute over hotly contested islands could spin out of control.

Japanese officials made the comments after Chinese fighters tailed its warplanes near the islands recently. The incident is believed to be the first scrambling of Chinese fighters since the tensions began to rise last spring.

According to Chinese media, a pair of J-10 fighters were scrambled after Japanese F-15s began tailing a Chinese surveillance plane near the disputed islands in the East China Sea. China has complained the sur-

veillance flight did not violate Japanese airspace and the F-15s were harassing it.

It was the first time the Chinese media has reported fighters being mobilized to respond to Japanese air force activity in the area and comes amid what Japan says is a rapid intensification of Chinese air force activity around the islands, where Japanese and Chinese coast guard ships have squared off for months.

Though there have been no outright clashes, the increased sea and air operations have fueled worries that the situation could spin out of control.

Such concerns have grown over official comments suggesting new Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and his Cabinet are considering the use of "trac-

er" fire as a means of responding to airspace incursions. Tracer rounds are designed to burn brightly to get the attention of a pilot who may have missed other warnings due to a radio malfunction, while also indicating that the aircraft firing them is prepared to take further action.

"Every country has procedures for how to deal with a violation of its territory that continues after multiple cautionary measures," Japanese Defense Minister Itsunori Onodera said Wednesday when asked if tracer shots would be fired against intruding aircraft that refuse to change course. "We have response measures ready that are consistent with global standards."

US Navy: Ship stuck in Philippines used faulty map

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—An inaccurate map that mislocated a marine sanctuary may have caused a U.S. Navy minesweeper to run aground on a coral reef in the Philippines this week, the Navy said Saturday.

All 79 officers and crew of the USS *Guardian* were taken off the ship for safety reasons after it struck the reef with its bow at 2 a.m. Thursday. The Navy's Pacific Fleet, based in Hawaii, said Saturday that its ships along with several support vessels continued to conduct salvage operations that minimize environmental effects

to the reef.

The Navy said in a statement that a review of Digital Nautical Charts, which are used for safe navigation by all U.S. Navy ships, found they contained inaccurate data and may have been a factor in the *Guardian*'s grounding. As a result, Navigator of the Navy Rear Adm. Jonathan White released precautionary guidance to all Pacific Fleet ships, saying that "initial review of navigation data indicates an error in the location of Tubbatara Reef" in the Philippines.

"While the erroneous navigation chart data is important in-

formation, no one should jump to conclusions," said Pacific Fleet spokesman Capt. Darryn James. "It is critical that the U.S. Navy conduct a comprehensive investigation that assesses all the facts surrounding the *Guardian* grounding."

The Avenger-class ship had just completed a port call in Subic Bay, a former American naval base west of the capital, Manila, and was en route to Indonesia and then on to East Timor to participate in a training exercise when it hit the reef, about 128 kilometers (80 miles) southeast of Palawan Island.



This Thursday Jan. 17, 2013 photo released by the Armed Forces of the Philippines Western Command (WESCOM) shows the USS *Guardian*, a U.S. Navy minesweeper, after running aground off Tubbatara Reef, a World Heritage Site in the Sulu Sea, 640 kilometers (400 miles) southwest of Manila, Philippines.

Flood death toll in Indonesian capital rises to 14

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—The death toll from floods in Indonesia's capital has climbed to 14 after searchers pulled three more bodies from the waters.

Indonesia's national disaster management agency said Saturday that the body of a 35-year-old member of the city's search and rescue team

was found on the banks of an overflowing river late Friday. Another man was found dead near his flooded home in western Jakarta.

The third body of a male worker was found Saturday in the flooded basement parking of a building in central Jakarta.

The agency said most victims

were electrocuted or drowned. Electricity supplies have been cut to several flooding areas to prevent electrocutions.

A dike in central Jakarta collapsed late Wednesday amid floods that swamped Jakarta. Successive governments have done little to mitigate the flooding threat.

World

Algeria: 32 militants killed, together with 23 hostages

ALGIERS, Algeria (AP)—In a bloody finale, Algerian special forces stormed a natural gas complex in the Sahara desert on Saturday to end a standoff with Islamist extremists that left at least 23 hostages dead and killed all 32 militants involved, the Algerian government said.

With few details emerging from the remote site in eastern Algeria, it was unclear whether anyone was rescued in the final operation, but the number of hostages killed on Saturday—seven—was how many the militants had said that morning they still had. The government described the toll as provisional and some foreigners remained unaccounted for.

The siege at Ain Amenas transfigured the world after radical Islamists linked to al-Qaida stormed the complex, which contained hundreds of plant workers from all over

the world, then held them hostage surrounded by the Algerian military and its attack helicopters for four tense days that were punctuated with gun battles and dramatic tales of escape.

Algeria's response to the crisis was typical of its history in confronting terrorists, favoring military action over negotiation, which caused an international outcry from countries worried about their citizens. Algerian military forces twice assaulted the two areas where the hostages were being held with minimal apparent mediation—first on Thursday, then on Saturday.

"To avoid a bloody turn of events in response to the extreme danger of the situation, the army's special forces launched an intervention with efficiency and professionalism to neutralize the terrorist groups that were first trying to

flee with the hostages and then blow up the gas facilities," Algeria's Interior Ministry said in a statement about the standoff.

Immediately after the assault, French President Francois Hollande gave his backing to Algeria's tough tactics, saying they were "the most adapted response to the crisis."

"There could be no negotiations" with terrorists, the French media quoted him as saying in the central French city of Tulle.

Hollande said the hostages were "shamefully murdered" by their captors, and he linked the event to France's military operation against al-Qaida-backed rebels in neighboring Mali. "If there was any need to justify our action against terrorism, we would have here, again, an additional argument," he said.

President Barack Obama said in a statement Saturday that the U.S. stood ready to provide whatever assistance was needed in the wake of the attack.

"This attack is another reminder of the threat posed by al-Qaida and other violent extremist groups in North Africa. In the coming days, we will remain in close touch with the Government of Algeria to gain a fuller understanding of what took place so that we can work together to prevent tragedies like this in the future," the statement said.

In New York, the U.N. Security Council issued a statement condemning the militants' terrorist attack and said all perpetrators, organizers, financiers and sponsors of such "reprehensible acts" must be brought to justice.

In the final assault, the remaining band of militants killed the hostages before 11 of them were in turn cut down by the special forces, Algeria's state news agency said. The military launched its Saturday assault to prevent a fire started by the extremists from engulfing the complex and blowing it up, the report added.

A total of 685 Algerian and 107 foreigner workers were freed over the course of the four-day standoff, the ministry statement said, adding that the group of militants that attacked the remote Saharan natural gas complex consisted of 32 men of various nationalities, including three Algerians and explosives experts.

The military also said it confiscated heavy machine guns, rocket launchers, missiles and grenades attached to suicide belts.

Al-Qaida in North Africa

Al-Qaida in the Islamist Maghreb (AQIM) is the jihadist group responsible for seizing hostages at an Algerian natural gas facility and, along with other Islamist groups, is fighting French forces for the control of northern Mali. A look at AQIM's history:

1998 First formed as faction of the Armed Islamic Group, then Algeria's largest terror group

2006 Officially joins al-Qaida with main goal of attacking Western targets

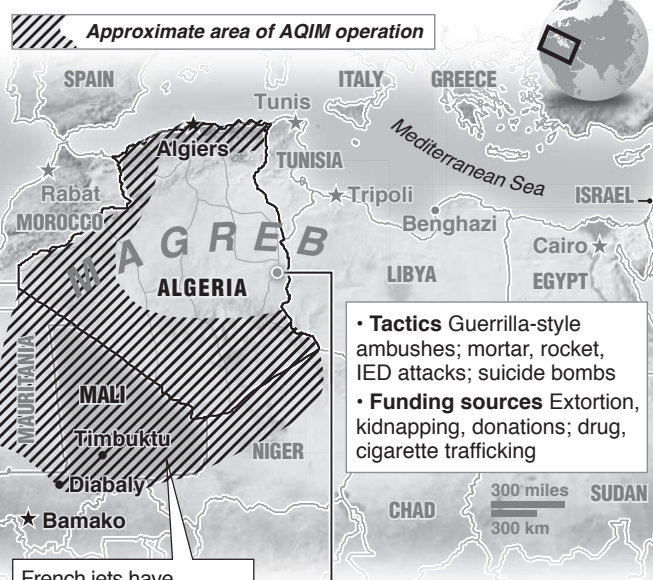
Early 2007 Renames itself AQIM; uses improvised explosive devices to attack foreign energy workers in Algeria

July 2007 AQIM suicide bomb attack on barracks kills eight

Dec. 2007 Car bomb attack on U.N. office in Algiers kills 37

Feb. 2008 Attacks Israeli Embassy in Mauritania

May 2009 Says it has killed British hostage after negotiations fail; later, claims it killed U.S. citizen in Mauritania over missionary work



French jets have attacked positions held by Islamist rebels controlling northern Mali

In Amenas natural gas facility

Seized by Islamist militants Jan. 15; raided by Algerian military the next day; some hostages freed, but some killed along with terrorists, according to Algerian government sources

July 2010 Joint French-Mauritanian raid on AQIM camp disrupts its activities

June 2011 AQIM kills two French hostages during failed rescue mission

2012 AQIM aids secular and Islamist rebels to seize northern Mali; area now a base for AQIM training, recruitment; Islamic sharia law enforced; hundreds

of thousands of Malians flee

2013 French forces join Malian troops to stop advancing rebels; AQIM raids Algerian gas facility to avenge Algeria allowing French military to use its airspace

Source: National Counterterrorism Center, Council on Foreign Relations
Graphic: Judy Treible, Robert Dorrell

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Focus

Dear Mr. President:

There is a man in Jacksonville, Fla., named Bryan Stone. He is 60 years old and works at a company that helps people find better jobs. He describes himself as “more to the right than the left,” though not all that far out from the middle. And he has something to say about the way America used to be that he wouldn’t mind you hearing.

“Everybody knew what the rules were,” he says. “That’s not true anymore.”

Hours from now, Mr. President, you take a brief oath and, after a bumpy and contentious first term, you begin your second. You know more about the nation you lead than do many of your 315 million employers. But the presidency, and the concentric circles of posturing that surround it, form a bubble that shields you from so much.

Here, then, is one snapshot—an interpretation of how it feels in America right now. It’s broad-brush and subjective, as any snapshot of a nation so big and diverse must be. And how America feels is different, of course, from how America IS. But perceptions, as the bumps and bruises of your first term have shown, can become reality.

We hold one truth to be self-evident, Mr. President: Americans feel deeply uncertain about the state of the nation right now. Very few of us seem to know what the rules are anymore—or even where we are going. Just this past week, an NBC News/*Wall Street Journal* Poll found that 57 percent of Americans polled think the country’s on the wrong track. Not as bad as October 2011, when it was 74 percent. But not very optimistic, either.

The people are fragmented, consumed, distracted, sometimes paralyzed by choices. Look at the comments section below any major news story posted on the web and you’ll see your countrymen denouncing each other in bulk. Is this the glorious mess of democracy or a sign of something uglier?

Last month after Newtown, for example, we wept in disbelief and pain for a few days and then many of us set to shouting. Regulate guns, insisted one side, and you’ll stop children from dying. Take law-abiding citizens’ guns away, insisted the other, and you place us in greater danger and violate one of the nation’s most fundamental rights.

Simple, right? Just like these easy labels: Liberals are big-government-loving socialists who can’t stop taxing and wasting, damn them all. Conservatives are gun-loving, callous warmongers who don’t care about the common people. Pathetic.

“When we go around perpetuating those stereotypes, it furthers that sense that we’re so polarized. When I don’t think that we really are,” says one of your constituents, Liz Owens Boltz, a web

Dear Mr. President: One glimpse of your nation

By TED ANTHONY
AP NATIONAL WRITER

In this May 3, 2012, file photo, President Barack Obama walks from the Oval Office as he arrives to speak at a celebration of Cinco de Mayo in the Rose Garden of the White House in Washington.

AP

content administrator in Sylvania, Ohio. She’s an independent who has voted Republican in the past but voted for you.

This is part of the problem, Mr. President, the contradiction of our age. We are multitudes, yet we have built a story of clustering in two camps. You inherited deep divisions, and you say you are trying to make things better. But, to hear your adversaries tell it, you have made them worse. If only there were one clear answer flashing in neon above the highway. How American that would be. But there are many answers, and none. And we don’t even seem to have the language to discuss them.

“I’m looking for a little more thoughtfulness and discussion and compromise and a little less knee-jerk political posturing,” Boltz says. “We tend to treat our government and politics like we treat our bodies—we don’t see things being a problem until it’s an emergency. But preventative care and long-term solutions, it’s a little less sexy. If we’re all in this black/white, yes/no mindset, how do we make progress?”

Since the beginning, the United States has prospered as a one-or-the-other nation, building itself around sharply drawn contrasts. Freedom or tyranny. Farm or city. Black or white. Blue or Gray. Good or evil. And, eventually, Democrat or Republican. These outsized stories have served us well and helped us erect our republic on clear bedrock princi-

ples. But the trouble is, the world didn’t cooperate. It got all fragmented. There’s no longer a Walter Cronkite who can say “That’s the way it is” and be listened to.

Instead, every statement by just about anyone has 1,000 opinionated offspring, each with a globally connected digital loudspeaker. Never before in American history have so many been able to shout down so many others so quickly. Put geographically, it’s become harder and harder to view our experiment in democracy as a land mass; more and more, we’re a series of small islands separated by choppy waters.

“What would you really put into an American time capsule today?” wonders John Baick, a historian at Western New England University. “Our time capsule would be so filled with so many different things and so little in common with each other. There’s so little notion of a consensus. So little notion of what America is, and so little notion of who belongs in the snapshot.”

What is that like from inside 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, to consider the sound of 300 million opinions? How do you even begin to parse the problems? How do you take people who are accustomed to answering true-or-false questions and lead them through the high weeds of multiple choice?

And the problems are legion.

We are spending beyond our means. As a society and as a government, the United States has

been using a credit card when it should have had a debit card. Yet discussions about how to run the American family budget only provoke more shouting and gridlock and brinkmanship. How would an average household have solved the fiscal cliff crisis, Mr. President? Would it ever have gotten to that point? And yet economic confidence, while hardly robust, is creeping up—as is the American economy itself, though sluggishly.

We made the middle class an ideal for so long, and now even that is a definition for argument. For tax purposes, you want to be counted as part of it. If you’re poor, you’re having trouble getting into it. It grows broader and narrower at the same time, and ultimately meaningless.

We keep asking, most recently through the debate on Obamacare: How do we care for our ill, our elderly, our poor? Do we look to government, or to ourselves? It is a centuries-old tension that we still struggle to solve.

We look outward, and challenges lurk in every direction. China’s rise—economic threat and opportunity—is not slowing, and its sphere of influence is expanding. Little al-Qaidas are eyeing ways to sow terror, and the decade-long struggle to keep the nation safe has taken its toll in the way we view freedoms—the ones we hold onto and the ones we exchange for safety, or at least a feeling of it.

And the gun. Again, the gun. It

shaped and protected our nation, and it is also killing us. Both sides have strong, passionate arguments. Both sides make sense—some of the time. More people want stronger gun regulation, and more people are buying guns. And both sides, as is the American way, are certain they’re right.

Gay marriage still causes arguments. Both sides of the abortion debate are as far apart as ever. Disputes over the role of religion in public life never recede. The constant American principles of freedom and morality—the Puritans’ legacy—still collide, and still divide.

We still call ourselves individualists loudly, assertively, obstinately, but we are individualists who often want to be guided. Some look to God for this, others to once-solid 19th- and 20th-century institutions that are fading or buckling. To the workplace, which no longer guarantees the Horatio Alger story of hard work producing a lifetime of being able to provide for those you love. To the physical town, so many of which faded with their Main Streets a generation ago. To unions, which behind their activism and advocacy contained a structure of community support that held fast for decades.

“Those connective tissues that were there, they’re gone—and they’re not being replaced,” says James Connolly, director of the Center for Middletown Studies at Ball State University, which studies American life in Muncie,

Ind., and other towns like it in the Midwest. “The withering of those connections,” he says, “leaves people with a sense that they’re at sea, they’re on their own.”

Opportunities to draw together with our neighbors—people who were like us but also different, compelling us to learn to get along—are becoming harder and harder to find. And that chips away at the feeling of being part of an enduring civilization. Yes, that’s a cultural thing, but it is also part of why our politics are the way they are.

“To get things done,” says Connolly, “you need other people.”

What to do? When to do it? Who to listen to? How to view the nation and its path? Answering those questions is your responsibility, Mr. President, but it’s also all of ours. And maybe, un-American though it might sound, sometimes the act of doing is not the only answer.

“Taking things seriously doesn’t always mean immediately fixing. Sometimes it means thinking about it,” says Asma Abbas, who teaches politics and philosophy at Bard College at Simon’s Rock in Massachusetts.

Bright rays poke through. We have endured enormous challenges before and prospered. Our innovation, optimism and entrepreneurial human capital remain the strongest in the world. So far, we are expressing our national crankiness with words, not weapons. In person we are mostly nice, even if on Facebook we are not. And remember, though more than half of us think the country’s on the wrong track, more than a third think it’s on the right one.

Let’s return to Bryan Stone, the man at the top of this letter. He gazes out at the edges of our political system, at the poles that give their name to polarization, and he sees no real way forward there. “I’m 60 years old,” he says, “and very few times in my life have I seen the answers come from the extremes.”

Long ago, Mr. President, one of your predecessors spoke in his inaugural address of “the magnitude and difficulty of the trust to which the voice of my country called me.” “No event,” he said, “could have filled me with greater anxieties.”

That was George Washington, one of the few politicians most of the country can still agree on. He gave shape to shapelessness and helped define the contours of the new republic with very little in the way of a road map to guide him.

Your road maps are many, Mr. President, but they all say different things. And somehow, 224 years after Washington took office, the shapelessness feels even bigger now, the challenge even more confusing. So what will you do next?

Ted Anthony writes about American culture for The Associated Press. Follow him on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/anthonyted>.



Health & Fitness

Large study confirms flu vaccine safe in pregnancy

By MIKE STOBBE
AP MEDICAL WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—A large study offers reassuring news for pregnant women: It's safe to get a flu shot.

The research found no evidence that the vaccine increases the risk of losing a fetus, and may prevent some deaths. Getting the flu while pregnant makes fetal death more likely, the Norwegian research showed.

The flu vaccine has long been considered safe for pregnant

In this Thursday, Oct. 29, 2009 file photo, Nicole Andreacchio, second right, who is seven months pregnant waits in line to receive the swine flu vaccine from the Montgomery County Health Department at Congregation Beth Or in Maple Glen, Pa.



Govt: Food allergies may be disability under law

WASHINGTON (AP)—Allergic to gluten? What about peanuts? Federal disabilities law may be able to help.

The Justice Department said in a recent settlement with a Massachusetts college that severe food allergies can be considered a disability under the law. That gives those who suffer from such allergies a new avenue in seeking menus that fit their diet. But some say it goes too far.

The decision leaves schools, restaurants and other places that serve food more exposed to legal challenges if they fail to honor requests for accommodations by people with food allergies.

Colleges and universities are especially vulnerable because they know their students and often require them to eat on campus, Eve Hill of the Justice De-

partment's civil rights division says. But a restaurant also could be liable if it blatantly ignored a customer's request for certain foods and that person became ill, though that case might be harder to argue if the customer had just walked in off the street and was unknown to the restaurant, Hill says.

The settlement with Lesley University, reached last month but drawing little attention, will require the Cambridge institution to serve gluten-free foods and make other accommodations for students who have celiac disease. At least one student had complained to the federal government after the school would not exempt that student from a meal plan even though the student couldn't eat the food.

"All colleges should heed this settlement and take steps

to make accommodations," says Alice Bast, president and founder of the National Foundation for Celiac Awareness. "To our community this is definitely a precedent."

Under the agreement, Lesley University says it will not only provide gluten-free options in its dining hall but also allow students to pre-order, provide a dedicated space for storage and preparation to avoid contamination, train staff about food allergies and pay a \$50,000 cash settlement to affected students.

"We are not saying what the general meal plan has to serve or not," Hill says. "We are saying that when a college has a mandatory meal plan they have to be prepared to make reasonable modifications to that meal plan to accommodate students with disabilities."

The agreement says that food

allergies may constitute a disability under the Americans With Disabilities Act, if they are severe enough. The definition was made possible under 2009 amendments to the disability law that concerned episodic impairments that substantially limit activity.

women and their fetus. U.S. health officials began recommending flu shots for them more than five decades ago, following a higher death rate in pregnant women during a flu pandemic in the late 1950s.

But the study is perhaps the largest look at the safety and value of flu vaccination during pregnancy, experts say.

"This is the kind of information we need to provide our patients when discussing that flu vaccine is important for everyone, particularly for pregnant women," said Dr. Geeta Swamy, a researcher who studies vaccines and pregnant women at Duke University Medical Center.

The study was released by the New England Journal of Medicine on Wednesday as the United States and Europe suffer through an early and intense flu season. A U.S. obstetricians group this week reminded members that it's not too late for their pregnant patients to get vaccinated.

The new study was led by the Norwegian Institute of Public Health. It tracked pregnancies in Norway in 2009 and 2010 during an international epidemic of a new swine flu strain.

Before 2009, pregnant wom-

en in Norway were not routinely advised to get flu shots. But during the pandemic, vaccinations against the new strain were recommended for those in their second or third trimester.

The study focused on more than 113,000 pregnancies. Of those, 492 ended in the death of the fetus. The researchers calculated that the risk of fetal death was nearly twice as high for women who weren't vaccinated as it was in vaccinated mothers.

U.S. flu vaccination rates for pregnant women grew in the wake of the 2009 swine flu pandemic, from less than 15 percent to about 50 percent. But health officials say those rates need to be higher to protect newborns as well. Infants can't be vaccinated until 6 months, but studies have shown they pick up some protection if their mothers got the annual shot, experts say.

Because some drugs and vaccines can be harmful to a fetus, there is a long-standing concern about giving any medicine to a pregnant woman, experts acknowledged. But this study should ease any worries about the flu shot, said Dr. Denise Jamieson of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Obesity in young kids dropped in NYC, grew in LA

NEW YORK (AP)—In the battle against childhood obesity, New York City appears to be doing better than Los Angeles, at least for low-income preschoolers.

A study released Thursday compared obesity rates for young poor children in the nation's two largest cities over nine years. Rates dipped in New York from about 19 percent to 16 percent. But in Los Angeles they rose from 17 percent to more than 21 percent before dropping to about 20 percent.

One reason for the difference: Los Angeles kids included many more Mexican-Americans, and obesity is more common in Mexican-American boys than in white or black kids.

The study joins other recent reports of declines in childhood obesity rates in places like Philadelphia, Anchorage and Kearney, Neb.

New York City's health commissioner said he was glad to hear the study's results, calling them "a big success." But with high rates of overweight and obesity in older children and adults, "there is much more work to be done," Dr. Thomas Farley said in a statement.

The director of Los Angeles County's health department said it's not clear why the rate rose there, but he was heartened to see it peak around 2009 and decline after.

"This is the first clear evidence—in the largest municipalities in the country—of this kind of decline" in pre-school age children," said Dr. Jonathan Fielding in a phone interview.

The research focused on children ages 3 and 4 enrolled in a government program for women, infants and young children known as WIC that provides food vouchers and other ser-

vices. The children in the New York and California programs are measured and weighed every six months.

The study covered 2003-2011 and the number of children enrolled varied each year, with as many as 67,000 in New York City and 150,000 in Los Angeles County.

New York's WIC program started very early—in the 1990s—in trying to promote exercise, healthy eating and breastfeeding. That's probably one reason New York City's obesity rate started dropping earlier, said the study's lead author, Jackson Sekhobo of the New York State Department of Health.

It probably also helped that walking and mass transit is much more common in New York City than in car-centric places like Los Angeles, he added.

Personal Trainer

Kick-start with caffeine?

People perform worse mentally and physically when they are seriously sleep deprived. A military study examined whether caffeine helps.

Severe fatigue, stress

U.S. Navy SEAL trainees volunteered to be tested during their grueling "Hell Week"

They were given 100, 200 or 300 mg caffeine pills or a placebo

Cup of coffee contains 65 to 110 mg

Caffeine's effect

Trainees' performance showed a "dose-related" improvement, meaning that the caffeine was probably the cause

Areas where they improved

- Vigilance on guard duty
- Reaction time when making choices
- Learning and memory
- Reduced feelings of fatigue
- Reduced sleepy feelings

When it kicked in

Caffeine had greatest beneficial effect 1 hour later

Significant beneficial effects lasted 8 hours

Other studies found the effect was the same for heavy coffee drinkers (more than 400 mg a day) and light (less than 100 mg)

skinny double mocha latte

© 2013 MCT
Source: U.S. and Canadian army studies reported in Canadian Military Journal
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Paul Trap

Life & Style

Poe visitor comes nevermore, yet mystery lingers

BALTIMORE (AP)—From the tombstone of Edgar Allan Poe, one can reach the street by taking a narrow dirt path between two tall stone mausoleums and crouching for a few steps underneath a portion of Westminster Hall.

This was a favorite getaway route for the Poe Toaster, the mysterious man in black who for decades left three roses and an unfinished bottle of Martell cognac at Poe's grave on the birthday of the father of macabre fiction.

The tradition ended four years ago, just as mysteriously, when the visitor failed to appear.

Ahead of Poe's 204th birthday on Saturday, the person who has overseen an annual cemetery vigil since the 1970s talked in detail about the story behind it.

Baltimore native Jeff Jerome revealed a few things, but he claims not to know the answer to the biggest question of all: Just who is or was the Poe Toaster? Jerome himself has become such a prime suspect that he repeatedly denied it, without prompting, during an interview. If he were the toaster, for example, why would he have ended the tradition, given all the publicity it brought to the nearby Poe House and Museum? Jerome was the museum's curator before it was closed by the city last fall.

"If I was doing it," he said, "I probably would continue it."

He's also keeping coy about one vital bit of trivia: the signs the visitor made at the gravesite to identify himself as the one and only Poe Toaster.

"A year, two years, my death bed, I don't know," Jerome said. "One of these days I'll reveal the signs."

Whoever the toaster is or was,

he apparently never set out to make a public spectacle of himself, performing his nighttime deed for decades at Westminster Burying Ground with hardly anyone noticing.

Poe, a literary critic, poet and author of fiction, died in 1849 in Baltimore at age 40 after collapsing in a tavern.

He was known for haunting poems such as "The Raven" and dread-inducing short stories like "The Tell-Tale Heart," "The Fall of the House of Usher" and "The Pit and the Pendulum." He is also credited with writing the first modern detective story, "The Murders in the Rue Morgue."

When Jerome became a tour guide for Westminster Hall in 1976, he found a 1950 clipping that made a passing reference to roses and cognac left every year at Poe's grave. Other members of the church backed up the story, and the caretaker who lived across the street claimed to take the cognac home and drink it every year.

On Jan. 19, 1977, Jerome said he was astonished to find the cognac and flowers at the grave.

The tradition was still alive.

The next year, he decided to wait in his car for a glimpse of the person, but he missed his chance when he had to leave for a few minutes to find a bathroom.

"I was angry at myself at that point," Jerome said.

He said he finally spotted the toaster for the first time a couple of years later when he and four friends spent the night in the cold, dank catacombs beneath the church. He said his heart was pounding as he spotted the well-dressed figure carrying a cane, the face obscured by a derby-type hat and white scarf.

After that, Jerome got permission to watch from inside the



AP
In this Jan. 15, 2013 photo, Jeff Jerome holds an unfinished bottle of cognac that was left one year on the grave of Edgar Allan Poe by the mysterious man known as the Poe Toaster in Baltimore.

Hall, always inviting friends, teachers or special Poe fans to join him. The public didn't start gathering outside the gates until after 1990, when Life magazine published the only known photo of the Poe Toaster, a black-and-white image that does nothing to reveal his identity.

Around that time, Jerome publicly stated that it would be nice if the visitor performed a sign to distinguish him from impostors. The visitor obliged by starting to perform two signs at the gravesite—both so subtle that Jerome said he needed three years to pick up on them.

Also, as the crowds grew each year, Jerome realized the toaster could no longer just walk into the main gate without being spotted.

"What we ended up doing was making it easier for him to get in," Jerome said. "And I didn't feel the least bit guilty in deceiving the people."

Jerome isn't saying how he made it easier, other than uttering a cryptic "maybe" when asked if it was by leaving open the Wineholt Gate, which was used to bring in Poe's body.

A note left by the toaster in 1993 said the "torch will be

passed." Several years later there was another note saying that the original Poe Toaster had died and that his two sons were continuing the tradition.

The sons didn't take the tribute seriously. Jerome said they "started getting lazy with the way they dressed" and blended into the crowd by wearing winter jackets and caps instead of the traditional outfit. They left notes that marred the ritual—one referencing the Super Bowl, another dissing the French for opposing the war in Iraq.

"I promised myself that if they started leaving these goofy notes again, I wasn't going to go along with it," Jerome said.

The next time a note was left, Jerome said he was chagrined at the contents, as were his fellow witnesses inside the Hall. He decided to fib and say that no note was left. He declines to reveal its contents, other than to say that, in hindsight, it was a hint that the vigil was about to be nevermore.

"My personal feeling is the

novelty wore off and they didn't like fighting the crowds and trying to find ways to get in here," Jerome said. "And being afraid someone would try to tackle them with a camera right in their faces."

Jerome is still bothered there wasn't a farewell note when the toaster last visited in 2009. He has held the vigil each year since then, in case the visitor returned.

He declared that 2012 was the end for good.

Now, however, he says he might pull another all-nighter Saturday.

"It never leaves my mind how special this was, how unique, one of a kind," Jerome said. "It had the flair, the drama attached to it. ... I feel privileged. I was honored to fall into this. It's been a part of my life."

"I'm the one that kept it going, helped the guy so he wouldn't be tackled. How many thousands and thousands of people would give anything to be here?"

Obama girls rock out with military kids at concert

WASHINGTON (AP)—Usher sang "Yeah!" Katy Perry donned star and stripes for "Firework." And a ballroom full of lucky kids got to rock out with Sasha and Malia Obama at Saturday's Kids' Inaugural Concert, a star-studded event that honors America's military families.

"Now, inauguration is a pretty big deal," first lady Michelle Obama, who hosted the event along with Jill Biden, told the assembled families at the Washington Convention Center. "But I have to tell you that my very favorite part of this entire weekend is being right here with all of you." She paid tribute to the sacrifices that military families make, including their kids.

Pointing out that such kids often attend six to nine schools by the end of high school, always having to be "the new kid," she said being a military kid meant "growing up just a little faster, and working just a little harder than other kids." The concert was streamed live to several military bases around the country.

This was the second such concert for the Obama girls, and the choice of talent seemed to reflect the fact that they are four years older. While in 2009 they were entertained by Miley Cyrus and the Jonas Brothers, this time it was Usher and Perry, along with the groups Mindless Behavior and Far East Movement. Also performing were cast members from the Fox TV hit "Glee."

Usher, in black leather, kicked off the proceedings with his hit

"Yeah!," followed by "Without You" and "OMG," earning a huge cheer from the crowd. In between acts, there were kid-friendly diversions like a dance-off, or a race among mascots of the Washington Nationals: oversized versions of presidents like George Washington, Abraham Lincoln and Teddy Roosevelt.

Three members of the "Glee" cast were greeted warmly by the crowd: Naya Rivera, who plays Santana; Darren Criss, who plays Blaine; and Amber Riley, who plays Mercedes.

Nick Cannon emceed the evening, but it was Mrs. Obama, sporting her new bangs and wearing a white peplum shirt over black pants, who got to introduce the top attraction.

"It is now my pleasure to introduce the fabulous Katy Perry!" she said, and the singer emerged in what looked like a vintage swimsuit, covered patriotically with stars and stripes. She sang her hits "Teenage Dream," "Part of Me," "Wide Awake" and then "Firework," which was accompanied by a slide show of President Barack Obama: Obama in the Oval Office, Obama exiting Air Force One, Obama greeting LeBron James.

"I'm very proud to be here ... and to see the Obamas and the Bidens here for four more years," she said.

Perry was the favorite of concertgoer Dylan Garvin, 12, who came from Wilmington, Del. "I thought it was incredible," Dylan said of the concert. "It's a great way to celebrate."

Winfrey's Armstrong interview seen by 3.2 million

NEWYORK (AP)—Oprah Winfrey's interview with Lance Armstrong is more than an illustration of a hero athlete tumbling from the heights. It's also a pivotal moment for a famous media figure trying to climb the ladder back up.

Winfrey's OWN network is showing signs of life after a rocky start, and the Armstrong interview offered a chance for many more viewers to check it out. The former Tour de France cyclist admitted to cheating with performance enhancing drugs throughout his career during the first half of the interview Thursday night.

That program was seen by a total of 4.3 million viewers in Thursday's back-to-back airings, OWN said Friday. But it drew only 3.2 million viewers in its first airing, an audience that fell short of OWN's most-viewed telecast: an interview

Winfrey conducted with the Whitney Houston family last March following the singer's death the previous month.

The second half of the Armstrong interview is to air Friday night.

The interview "showcases the No. 1 asset this network has over everybody else—and that's Oprah Winfrey," said Erik Logan, co-president of the network with Sheri Solata. It also showcased about everything else; OWN relentlessly advertised its programming on just about every commercial break.

Winfrey, who hosts "Oprah's Master Class," "Oprah's Life Class" and a weekly interview show on OWN, attended a real-life television management class over the past three years. The network launch at the dawn of 2011 came during the last season of Winfrey's popular syndi-

cated show, and that proved to be a major strategic error.

The daily talk show gave Winfrey's fans their Oprah jolt, and they had little reason to watch the Oprah Winfrey Network. Winfrey wasn't much of a presence there, anyway. She was concentrating on making sure her syndicated show went out with a flourish.

OWN flailed for direction with little-noticed celebrity reality shows featuring the Judds and Ryan and Tatum O'Neal. A Rosie O'Donnell talk show was an expensive flop.

Discovery Communications, which sunk a reported \$250 million into OWN, told Winfrey she needed to be more involved with OWN, on and off screen. In July 2011, she became CEO as well as chairwoman of OWN, replacing Christina Norman.

"The initial expectations for

this network turned out to be unrealistic," said Brad Adgate, an analyst for Horizon Media. "Oprah wasn't on camera. The shows weren't all that good. The network got raked over the coals. People thought the network would be doing a million viewers (on average) and it's doing a third of that."

The Discovery networks save money by sharing services, yet OWN had set up its own fiefdom. That ended. Discovery brought in its executives to take over legal and business affairs, and OWN laid off one-fifth of its staff last March. To the outside world it looked like a sinking ship, while to Discovery the ship was being righted.

"We were always a lot more confident internally than it looked externally," said David Leavy, chief communications officer for Discovery.

J.J. Abrams to produce Lance Armstrong biopic

LOS ANGELES (AP)—He's already gotten the Oprah treatment. Now Lance Armstrong is headed for the silver screen.

Paramount Pictures and J.J. Abrams' production company, Bad Robot, are planning a biopic about the disgraced cyclist, a studio spokeswoman said Friday.

They've secured the rights to New York Times reporter

Juliet Macur's upcoming book "Cycle of Lies: The Fall of Lance Armstrong," due out in June. Macur covered the seven-time Tour de France winner for over a decade.

No director, writer, star or start date have been set.

Armstrong is in the midst of a two-part interview with Oprah Winfrey in which he admits to using performance-enhancing

drugs to reach his historic victories, something he'd defiantly denied for years. The International Olympic Committee stripped him of his 2000 bronze medal this week.

In this Oct. 7, 2012 file photo, Lance Armstrong competes in the Rev3 Half Full Triathlon, in Ellicott City, Md.

AP



Radcliffe explores daring territory in new film

PARK CITY, Utah (AP)—Daniel Radcliffe has really left Harry Potter behind with a startling and explicit Sundance Film Festival role as poet Allen Ginsberg.

"Kill Your Darlings," the "Harry Potter" star's first film at the independent-cinema showcase, premiered Friday at Sundance and puts Radcliffe into daring territory.

His young Ginsberg is initiated into booze and drugs, has oral sex performed on him in a library, makes out with one man and gets naked for sex with an-

other man.

In a session with the audience after the premiere, Radcliffe was asked if he chose the role because it fit the "weird stuff" he likes.

Radcliffe said it was the second time that day he was asked the same question and conceded his tastes can run outside the mainstream.

"Films like this don't get made unless everyone involved loves them," Radcliffe said.

The film recounts a little-known story of murder involving Ginsberg's circle of friends,

including fellow future beat heroes Jack Kerouac (Jack Huston) and William S. Burroughs (Ben Foster).

Dane DeHaan co-stars as Ginsberg idol and intimate Lucien Carr, and the cast also includes Michael C. Hall, Elizabeth Olsen and Jennifer Jason Leigh.

Director John Krokidas said Radcliffe became his muse on the film and that it was clear within minutes of their first meeting that the part was his.

Krokidas said young Ginsberg starts as a dutiful son who spends his time taking care of others but eventually spills over with repressed passion.



Radcliffe

Joshua Tree spider species named for U2's Bono

JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL PARK, California (AP)—It appeared Bono and arachnids didn't mix when his "Spider-Man" musical had a rough Broadway run, but that didn't keep a biologist from naming an actual spider species after the U2 singer.

Jason Bond of Alabama's Auburn University has identified 33 new species of trapdoor spider, including three of them in the California desert at Joshua Tree National Park. The park's namesake is featured in the title and cover of U2's 1987 album, "The

Joshua Tree."

The Riverside Press-Enterprise reports that Bond named two of the spiders after Indian tribes and one, A. bonoi, after Bono.

Bond has named other spider species after Angelina Jolie, Cesar Chavez and Stephen Colbert.

The trapdoor spider, found in the Southwestern U.S., is so-named because it makes a hatch to hide from prey.



Bono

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

'Django Unchained' action figures discontinued

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Weinstein Co. has asked a toy maker to discontinue a line of "Django Unchained" action figures after receiving complaints that they were offensive. The studio said Friday that such collectibles have been created for all of director Quentin Tarantino's films, including "Inglourious Basterds," and that they were meant for people 17 and older, the audience for the film. "Django Unchained" is a violent mix of spaghetti Western and blaxploitation genres about a freed slave (Jamie Foxx) who becomes a bounty hunter. Civil rights groups argued that the toys trivialized the horrors of slavery. "We have tremendous respect for the audience and it was never our intent to offend anyone," The Weinstein Co. said in a statement. Toy maker NECA did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Brazil judge orders '50 Shades of Grey' removed

SAO PAULO (AP)—A Brazil-

ian judge has ordered the erotic trilogy "Fifty Shades of Grey" taken off the shelves of bookstores in the city of Macae, or at least wrapped to prevent minors from opening them. A statement by the Rio de Janeiro State Judiciary Department says Judge Raphael Queiroz Campos issued the order after he saw children in one of city's bookstores looking through erotic books. Eleven copies of the "Grey" series are among 64 books taken from the shelves of two bookstores because their content was deemed "improper" for youths under the age of 18. The books can be returned to the shelves only if they are sealed and placed out of reach of minors.

Bieber's mom produces anti-abortion short film

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Justin Bieber's mother, Pattie Mallette, is an executive producer on an upcoming anti-abortion short film. The makers of "Crescendo" hope to raise \$10 million for pregnancy centers at screenings worldwide starting Feb. 28. Mallette herself will appear at some of these, said production company Movie to

Movement on Friday. The pop star's mother has written and spoken extensively about the addiction and abuse that led to her teenage pregnancy. She said in a statement she hopes her involvement with "Crescendo" will "encourage young women all over the world, just like me, to let them know that there is a place to go, people who will take care of you and a safe home to live in if you are pregnant and think you have nowhere else to turn."

Bolshoi director needs more surgery after attack

MOSCOW (AP)—Russian officials say the artistic director of the Bolshoi ballet will need at least one more operation after an attacker threw acid in his face and that it's not yet clear if the sight in his right eye can be saved. No arrests have been made in the Thursday night attack on Sergei Filin, which his colleagues say may have been retaliation for his selection of certain dancers for prized roles. Filin underwent surgery on Friday. Alexei Levchenko, a spokesman for Russia's deputy prime minister, was quoted by

the state news agency ITAR-Tass as saying Filin was in stable condition after the operation but that "the prospects for restoring his sight will be clearer in five to seven days." Filin might have another operation next week, Levchenko said.

Bellucci says next movie will be filmed in Bosnia

BANJA LUKA, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP)—Italian actress Monica Bellucci says her next movie will be filmed in Bosnia by Serbian director Emir Kusturica. Bellucci arrived in Banja Luka, the capital of the Serb region of Bosnia, on Saturday and was met by Kusturica. The two proceeded to a village in Serbia that he has built and where he is organizing a film festival. Bellucci and Kusturica provided little information about the forthcoming movie, except to say it will be titled "Love and War" and that the shooting will begin in May in the Bosnian town of Trebinje. The actress has appeared in movies such as "That Summer," "The Passion of the Christ" and "The Matrix Reloaded."

Stubborn grandma knits name she wants on baby's afghan

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



DEAR ABBY: I'm two months pregnant with my second child. Our first child is a boy. My problem is my mother. She loves her grandson dearly, but she's desperate for a granddaughter.

Recently, the subject of names came up. Although we have already decided on a name if the child is a boy, we had not discussed girls names at length.

When Mother asked me what the girl's name would be, I said I had always liked "Melody," and that if I had my way, that is what I'd name a girl. My mother immediately started knitting an afghan with the name Melody on it.

A week later, my husband said that while he didn't mind the name Melody, he thought we should decide on a name together. I tried to tell Mom that Melody might not be the name we choose. Her response was, "Well, my granddaughter will always be Melody to me."

Mom and I are very close, but she can be extremely stubborn. What's the best way to tell her we have decided on another name?

WHAT'S IN A NAME IN CANADA

DEAR WHAT'S: Tell her in plain English, and do it before the afghan has to be unraveled and redone. If she insists on completing the blanket with the wrong name, accept it graciously and quietly donate it to charity.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I was a busy wife, mother and grandmother who had always been active and involved in my church and community. When my beloved husband died three years ago, everything changed. I became so consumed by grief, all my regular activities suddenly meant nothing to me.

My children and grandchildren were busy with their own families and careers. I missed having someone to talk to and began feeling deeply lonely, even in a crowd.

Then something remarkable happened: I learned I have an incurable cancer. I was so scared and worried, I couldn't eat or sleep. One of my sons took me to a world-famous cancer center. Everyone I met there was loving and kind, and radiated positive feelings. Once again, I felt surrounded by love—and it changed my outlook.

I was able to return to my hometown for further treatment in a cancer center here, and I return to the larger center for follow-ups. Now I have the best of two worlds—a world-famous cancer center a plane ride away, and the ability to sleep in my own bed at night. I also have people in two centers who treat me with love and respect. Community and church members are rallying around me to show their support. I feel blessed and content, and the best part is I am no longer afraid.

Abby, what do you think about my change in attitude? Am I in denial or experiencing some new stage of grief? I don't want to have cancer. I don't want to leave everyone behind. But I am not afraid to die.

LOVING EVERY DAY WITHOUT FEAR

DEAR LOVING: What you have experienced could be called an epiphany. In your case, it may be the simple, striking and illuminating discovery that once you felt again surrounded by love, respect and security, leaving this world and joining your husband in the next no longer held terror, but gave you peace.

■ ■ ■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

■ ■ ■

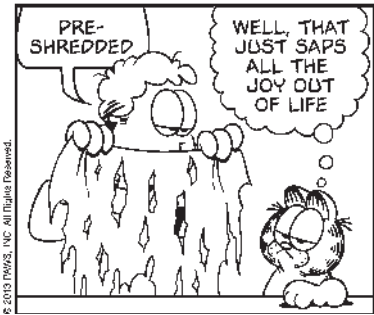
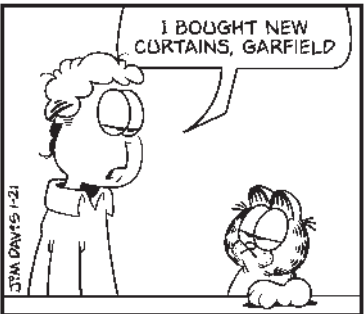
Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$14 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson Garfield®

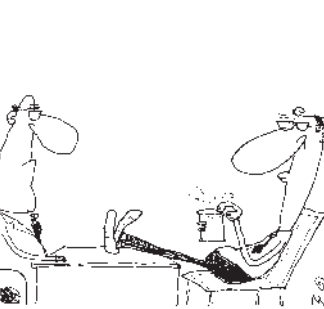
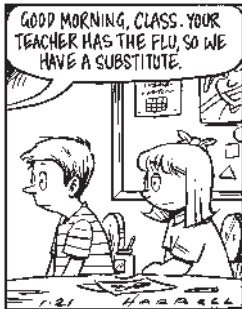
By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



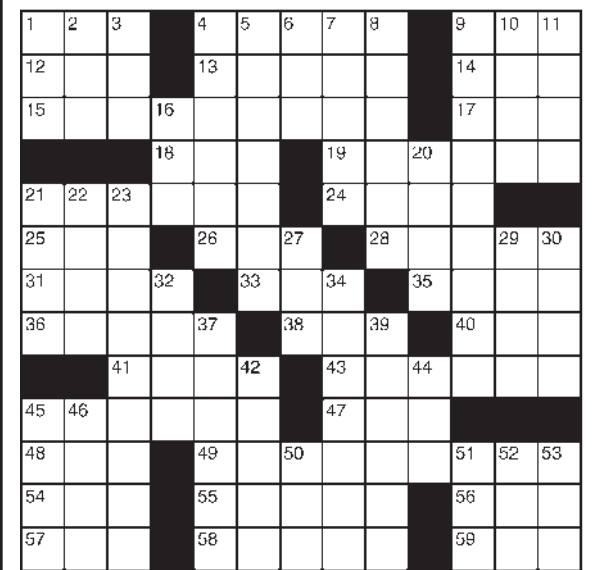
CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 1 Gorilla 4 Lathers 9 Justice Dept. div. 12 Felon's flight 13 Violinist's stroke 14 Young chap 15 Shift back and forth 17 Work with 18 Have a bug 19 Texas city 21 Suppress the sound 24 Land-lord's due 25 Web address 26 Finish 28 Nephew's sister 31 Author Bellow 33 -tac-toe 35 Pharma-ceutical 36 Spritlike 38 "Bow-wow!" 40 Historic period

DOWN 1 TV 2 alien 3 Ostrich's cousin 4 Vain 5 Rich 6 Lawyers' org. 7 Engine 8 Home of Volvos and Saabs 9 Discom-posed 10 Low voice 11 Concept 16 Half— (Star-bucks option) 20 Oklaho-ma city 21 Clio or Erato 22 Caspian feeder 23 Most superfi-cial 27 24 horas 29 Remedy 30 "Zounds!" 32 Friend of Dorothy 34 Guys with oars, maybe 37 Lo-cal, often 39 Fires 42 Culti-vated land 44 Gls' entertain-ment org. 45 Faucet problem 46 Twine fiber 50 Spoon-bender Geller 51 End of the alphabet 52 Comedi-an Philips 53 — Paulo, Brazil

Solution time: 27 mins.

Friday's answer 1-18



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Boo-boo Stewart, 19; Ashton Eaton, 25; Emma Bunton, 37; Geena Davis, 57.

Happy Birthday: Recognize what adjustments are necessary and make your move. Once you eliminate the problem, you can execute a plan that will help you stabilize your life. Learn from past experiences and you will make progress that will transpire into greater opportunities. You won't be able to please everyone, but you must strive to please yourself. Your numbers are 3, 10, 14, 28, 37, 42, 44.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Take a greater interest in a humanitarian cause. The individuals you meet through such organizations and the conversations you have will help you achieve your goals. Favors will be granted if you ask, so don't be shy. Work-related opportunities are heading your way. ****

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Less talk and more action will bring better results. Fix up your surroundings or update your appearance or skills and you will feel better about yourself. Arguing will be a waste of time. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You can make a change that will secure your position and reputation. An opportunity will develop through someone you have worked with in the past. Taking a unique approach to an old service or skill will raise interest. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Partnerships will turn out to your lifestyle and beliefs that will suit the situation you are currently facing. Showing strength, courage and

discipline will help you win favors from those you least expected to help. Love is on the rise. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Last-minute changes will keep everyone around you guessing. It's important to use the element of surprise if you want someone to take notice. Greater opportunity will be yours if you venture into areas of work that are humanitarian or environmentally based. ****

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Share your thoughts, but question anyone offering information that sounds too good to be true. Love is in the stars, and making special plans for two or attending a social event for singles will bring good results. **

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You have what it takes to get what you want. Don't settle for anything less, and refuse to give in to anyone who tries to make you feel guilty about following your own path. Travel, networking and research will all bring excellent results. ****

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Expect someone to disagree. You have to head in a direction that best suits you. Focus on unique and creative people who take an interest in what you are trying to accomplish. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Open up doors to new adventures, relationships and opportunities. Emotional conversations can be expected. Keeping your thoughts straight and sticking to exactly what has transpired will keep you out of trouble. A change at home will turn out to be beneficial. ***

EUGENIA LAST THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Pro- tect what's yours. Listen, observe and decide who is on your side and who isn't. Spend time nurturing home, family and whoever means the most to you. Love is on the rise, and a promise or commitment should be made. ****

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Make room at home for a project you want to start. Keeping busy will help you reach your goals as well as keep you out of trouble. Follow your own path even if someone tries to bully you into going in a different direction. **

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You'll face controversy if you share your emotions. Take a step back and listen to the opinions being offered. You don't have to follow someone's suggestion, but it may help you come up with a suitable solution. **

Birthday Baby: You are creative, inventive, a humanitarian and a seeker of truth.

Eugenia's website—eugenialast.com, Eugenia's android app @ http://bit.ly/exhoro and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

Difficulty Level ★

1/21

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's SUDOKU Answer

Difficulty Level ****

1/18

WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

HUGGING IS HEALTHY

Solution: 8 letters

THCEPIHSROWRHEC
OEOEZUSHIELDHR
UANNLIGSUTVALUE
CLNDODLASPARWSR
HTERERDODEPOHAI
UHCAERFUDMROWES
GYTUZENLCIIARRH
GPRGEVIECERRCTA
IAOEEISESMKHEEP
NRRFUTPTFTSSCLVP
GEMAQIEHDIADDOY
RHOSSEIRRAWTLO
ATCDAOKUBRSEIZE
SREWOPOMCPRAISE
POLEVNEXPRESSYE

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Admire, Caress, Cherish, Comfort, Connect, Cradle, Cuddle, Embrace, Envelop, Express, Feel, Foster, Grasp, Happy, Healthy, Hold, Honor, Hope, Hugging, Idolize, Keeps, Kids, Lock, Love, Nourish, Positive, Power, Praise, Receive, Safeguard, Seize, Shield, Squeeze, Support, Tenderness, Therapy, Touch, Treasure, Value, Warmth, Wise, Worship, Wrap

Last Saturday's Answer: Burrows

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Armstrong's enemies find vindication, sadness

By EDDIE PELLIS
AP NATIONAL WRITER

First shunned, then vilified by Lance Armstrong, Mike Anderson had to move to the other side of the world to get his life back.

Now running a bike shop outside of Wellington, New Zealand, Armstrong's former assistant watched news reports about his former boss confessing to performance-enhancing drug use with only mild interest. If Anderson never hears Armstrong's voice again, it would be too soon.

"He gave me the firm, hard push and a shove," Anderson said in a telephone interview with The Associated Press. "Made my life very, very unpleasant. It was an embarrassment for me and my family to be portrayed as liars, to be called a disgruntled employee, implying there was some impropriety on my part. It just hurt. It was completely uncalled for."

Anderson is among the dozens, maybe hundreds, of former teammates, opponents and associates to receive the Armstrong treatment, presumably for not going along with the party line—that the now-disgraced, seven-time Tour de France cyclist didn't need to cheat to win.

The penalties for failing to play along were punitive, often humiliating, and now that Armstrong has admitted in an interview with Oprah Winfrey that he's a doper, a liar and a bully, many of those who saw their lives changed, sometime ruined, are going through a gamut of emotions.

Some feel vindicated, others remain vengeful. Some are sad, while many others are simply wrung out.

"He's damaged a lot of people's lives," said Betsy Andreu, whose husband, Frankie, was culled from Armstrong's team for not agreeing to dope. "He has damaged the sport of cycling. Frankie was fired for not getting on the program. I never thought this day would come but it's so incredibly sad."

Before his interview with Winfrey aired, Armstrong reached out to the Andreus to apologize but the planned reconciliation did not work. In fact, Armstrong's interview only made things worse, when he refused to confirm what the Andreus testified to under oath—that they had heard the cyclist admit to doping while meeting with doctors treating him for cancer at an Indiana hospital in 1996.

Regardless of whether Armstrong says more about that, there's no denying that life for the Andreus changed when they refused to go along.

"Frankie's career was definitely cut short. His career was ruined early," Betsy Andreu said. "You have riders out there whose careers never happened" because of Armstrong.

And some whose careers were cut short.

Filippo Simeoni was a talented, young rider who dared



This Monday, Jan. 14, 2013 photo provided by Harpo Studios Inc., shows talk-show host Oprah Winfrey interviewing cyclist Lance Armstrong during taping for the show "Oprah and Lance Armstrong: The Worldwide Exclusive" in Austin, Texas.

admit to doping and told authorities he received his instructions from physician Michele Ferrari, who also advised Armstrong during his career. After that 2002 testimony, Armstrong branded Simeoni a liar. He went so far as to humiliate Simeoni at the 2004 Tour de France, when he chased down the Italian rider during a breakaway and more or less ordered him to fall back in line. Later in the race, and with a TV camera in his face, Armstrong put his finger to his lips in a "silence" gesture. After the stage, he said he was simply protecting the interests of the peloton.

Simeoni received a different message.

"When a rider like me brushed up against a cyclist of his caliber, his fame and his worth—when I clashed with the boss—all doors were closed to me," Simeoni said. "I was humiliated, offended, and marginalized for the rest of my career. Only I know what that feels like. It's difficult to explain."

Anderson certainly can.

In a story he wrote for Outside Magazine last August, Anderson detailed a business relationship with Armstrong that began in 2002 with an email from Armstrong promising he would finance Anderson's bike shop when their work together was done. Anderson, a bike me-

chanic working in Armstrong's hometown of Austin, Texas, essentially became the cyclist's personal assistant, his responsibilities growing as the years passed. One of his tasks was making advance trips to Armstrong's apartment in Spain to prepare it for his arrival.

Anderson says the relationship began to sour after he came upon a box in Armstrong's bathroom labeled "Androstenedione," the banned substance most famously linked to Mark McGwire. The box, Anderson wrote, was mysteriously gone the next time he entered the apartment.

Time passed. Anderson bore witness to more and more things

that didn't feel right. Armstrong, sensing his employee's discomfort, became more and more distant. Finally, Anderson wrote, Armstrong severed ties, asking Anderson to sign a nondisclosure agreement "that would have made me liable for a large sum of money if I even mentioned ever having worked for Armstrong."

Anderson's refusal to do that led to lawyers and lawsuits—with Armstrong accusing Anderson of extortion and Anderson accusing Armstrong of wrongful dismissal, breach of contract, and defamation. The cases were eventually settled for undisclosed terms.

But Anderson took his share

of hits along the way.

"Austin was not a comfortable place for me after that," he said. "It had been my home for some years. I had enjoyed a very good reputation. I couldn't get a job in the bicycle business, certainly not one that was a fair placement for my skill and experience."

He ended up in New Zealand, where his wife's brother has roots, and is doing fine, now.

"I got a fair shake from some local investors who believe in me and we've been at it for four years," Anderson said. "The kids are clothed and fed and I don't really have any complaints."

Stories such as these—about the havoc Armstrong unleashed on people's lives—come from seemingly every corner: bike mechanics, multimillionaire businessmen, trainers, masseuses, wives, cyclists both at the front and back of the peloton.

Tyler Hamilton was among Armstrong's key teammates during his first three Tour de France victories. His tell-all interview on "60 Minutes" in 2011, combined with his testimony and a book he wrote last year, played a key part in the unraveling of the Armstrong myth.

Hamilton watched Armstrong's confession with little emotion but with a modicum of hope.

"It's been a sad story for a lot of people," Hamilton said. "But I think we'll look back on this period and, hopefully not too far down the road, we can say it was, in the end, a good thing for the sport of cycling."

Tony Parker, Spurs hold off Hawks, 98-93

ATLANTA (AP)—Tony Parker had 23 points and 12 assists, and the San Antonio Spurs held off the short-handed Atlanta Hawks 98-93 on Saturday night for their fourth straight victory.

Matt Bonner added 17 points, and Kawhi Leonard and Tiago Splitter each had 14 for the Spurs.

The Hawks announced about 90 minutes before the game that guard Lou Williams faces season-ending surgery for a torn ACL in his right knee. Williams was hurt Friday at Brooklyn and the tear was found when Williams was examined on Saturday.

Then the Hawks lost guard Devin Harris to a sprained left ankle in the third quarter.

Josh Smith led the Hawks with 21 points. Kyle Korver, who started at shooting guard, had 19 points.

Grizzlies 85, Bulls 82, OT

In Chicago, Marc Gasol scored 19 points, Zach Randolph had 13 points and 19 rebounds, and Memphis beat Chicago in overtime.

Memphis scored the first six points of the extra period, Ga-

sol's putback making it 82-76. The Bulls cut it to 83-80 on Jimmy Butler's layup and had a chance to tie, but Nate Robinson missed a 3-pointer with 25 seconds left.

Robinson made a layup with 6.6 seconds left, but Jerryd Bayless scored with 4.8 seconds remaining to make it 85-82. Carlos Boozer missed a 3 as time expired.

Warriors 116, Hornets 112

In New Orleans, Klay Thompson had a season-high 29 points, Jarrett Jack scored seven of his 25 in the final minute and Golden State beat New Orleans.

The Warriors trailed 110-108 in a topsy-turvy game when Jack hit two free throws with 52 seconds left to tie the score. He converted a tough floater to give Golden State a 112-110 lead, and he finished off the Hornets with three free throws.

Thompson scored 24 in the first half as the Warriors led by as much as 16. Jack, who played for the Hornets last season, added 12 assists. Stephen Curry, returning after missing two games with a right ankle sprain, had 17 of his 20 points in the second half.

Timberwolves 92, Rockets 79

In Minneapolis, Chris Johnson and Mickael Gelabale signed 10-day contracts with Minnesota on Saturday morning, then scored the first 23 points of the fourth quarter to lift the Timberwolves over the slumping Houston Rockets.

Johnson, signed from Santa Cruz of the NBA Development League, scored 13 of his 15 points in the fourth. Gelabale, a forward who arrived from France on Thursday, had 10 of his 11 points in the final 12 minutes to help the injury-plagued Wolves snap a five-game skid.

James Harden scored 18 points on 5-of-18 shooting for the Rockets, who have lost seven straight games.

Kings 97, Bobcats 93

In Charlotte, North Carolina, Marcus Thornton scored 18 points off the bench, Tyreke Evans came up big down the stretch, and Sacramento held on to beat Charlotte for its third win in four games.

After scoring just 69 points in a 16-point loss to Memphis a night earlier, the Kings made sure there would be not be another offensive letdown.

They led most of the way but needed a late burst from Evans, who scored six of the team's last nine points in the final four minutes.

Jazz 109, Cavaliers 98

In Salt Lake City, Randy Foye scored 20 points, Derrick Favors had a season-high 19 and Utah beat Cleveland.

Utah (22-19) used a 31-point third quarter to take a 16-point lead into the fourth. The Jazz have won five of their last six, and six straight over the Cavs.

Dion Waiters led the Cavs (10-32) with 23 points off the bench. Kyrie Irving added 18 points but started 1 of 7 from the field before finishing 7 of 20.

Clippers 94, Wizards 87

In Los Angeles, Chris Paul had 22 points and 11 assists, Blake Griffin added 17 points and 11 rebounds, and Los Angeles hung on to beat pesky Washington for its 24th win in 27 games.

The Clippers won despite shooting a season-low 36.6 percent from the field. Paul, the NBA player of the month for December, returned to the lineup after missing three games because of a bruised right kneecap and scored seven points in

the final 3:14.

The surging Clips are within a half-game of idle Oklahoma City for the NBA's best record, a full game ahead of San Antonio. The top teams in the Western Conference will go head-to-head on Tuesday night at Los Angeles in a rematch of their overtime battle on Nov. 21, when the Thunder beat the Clippers 117-111 in Griffin's hometown.

Bucks 110, Trail Blazers 104

In Portland, Oregon, Brandon Jennings had 30 points and eight assists, Ersan Ilyasova added 27 points and 14 rebounds, and Milwaukee beat Portland to wrap up a 3-1 road trip.

Damian Lillard had 26 points and 10 assists for Portland, which has lost a season-high five straight games. LaMarcus Aldridge had 20 points and 14 rebounds, while Wesley Matthews added 21 points.

Mike Dunleavy had 14 points and Monta Ellis added 13 for Milwaukee, which is 5-2 since Jim Boylan took over as coach from Scott Skiles. Ilyasova shot 10 of 14 from the field and made all three of his 3-point attempts and all four of his free throws.

Te'o provides answers, but more may be asked



In a photo provided by ESPN, Notre Dame linebacker Manti Te'o pauses during an interview with ESPN on Friday, Jan. 18, 2013, in Bradenton, Fla. AP



NEW YORK (AP) — Manti Te'o

tried to put one of the strangest sports stories in memory behind him, insisting he was the target of an elaborate online hoax in which he fell for a fake woman created by pranksters, then admitting his own lies made the bizarre ordeal worse.

Whether his off-camera interview with ESPN was enough to demonstrate that the Notre Dame star linebacker was a victim in the scheme instead of a participant is still an open question.

The most important judges of the All-American and Heisman Trophy finalist may be pro football teams. Te'o has finished his coursework at Notre Dame and is preparing for the NFL draft at an elite training facility in Florida, where the 2 1/2-hour interview was conducted late Friday night.

ESPN reporter Jeremy Schaap said that the 21-year-old Te'o answered all his questions in a calm voice, and tried to clear up the mysteries and inconsistencies of the case.

Among the highlights:

■ Te'o denied being in on the hoax. "No. Never," he said. "I wasn't faking it. I wasn't part of this."

■ Te'o provided a timeline and details of his relationship with Lennay Kekua, his virtual sweetheart, who went through an array of medical calamities before "dying" of Leukemia in September, just hours after Te'o got real news of his grandmother's death.

■ He acknowledged that he lied to his father about meeting Kekua in person, then exacerbated the

situation after her supposed death when he "tailored" his comments to reporters to make it sound as if their relationship was more than just phone calls and electronic messages.

"I even knew, that it was crazy that I was with somebody that I didn't meet, and that alone—people find out that this girl who died, I was so invested in, I didn't meet her, as well," Te'o said. "So I kind of tailored my stories to have people think that, yeah, he met her before she passed away, so that people wouldn't think that I was some crazy dude."

In the same part of the conversation, Te'o said: "Out of this whole thing, that is my biggest regret. And that is the biggest, I think, that's from my point of view, that is a mistake I made."

■ He detailed the confusing phone conversation he had on Dec. 6, when the woman who was posing as Kekua contacted him and told him one last hard-to-believe story about how she had to fake her own death to evade drug dealers. Te'o said it left him piecing together what exactly was going on over the next few days, when he was bouncing from interview to interview while taking part in the Heisman Trophy ceremony in New York on Dec. 8 and another awards dinner in Los Angeles the next night. He mentioned his girlfriend in interviews at least three times over that period.

■ Even after he went to his parents, coaches and Notre Dame officials with the story by Dec. 26, and the school provided an investigation that it says corroborated Te'o's version by Jan. 4, the player told ESPN that it was not until Ronaiah Tuiaosopopo, a 22-year-old acquaintance who lives in California, contacted him Wednesday

and confessed to the prank, that he finally believed Kekua was not real. Schaap said that Te'o showed him direct messages from Twitter in which Tuiaosopopo admitted to masterminding the hoax and apologized.

Schaap remarked to Te'o earlier in the interview that he still talked about Lennay as if she existed.

"Well, in my mind I still don't have answers," Te'o replied. "I'm still wondering what's going on, what happened."

Tuiaosopopo has not spoken publicly since Deadspin.com broke the news of the hoax on Wednesday and identified him as being heavily involved.

At the Tuiaosopopo house in Palmdale, Calif., the family did not answer the door Saturday. The AP learned Saturday through public records and interviews a house on the street as the Tuiaosopopo's that Te'o had flowers delivered to after Kekua "died" was once lived in by Ronaiah. The residents now? A family named Kekua, though they've never heard of a Lennay Kekua.

Whether Tuiaosopopo ultimately confirms Te'o's version of the story will go a long way toward determining where this saga is headed.

In the interview with ESPN, Te'o implied that he was not holding a grudge against Tuiaosopopo.

"I hope he learns," Te'o said. "I hope he understands what he's done. I don't wish an ill thing to somebody. I just hope he learns. I think embarrassment is big enough."

Te'o was the emotional leader and best player on a Notre Dame team that went from unranked to playing for the program's first national champion-

ship since 1988. And Te'o's tale of inspired play while dealing with a double-dose of tragedy became the theme of the Irish's unexpected rise and undefeated regular season.

Not until Te'o and the Irish faced Alabama in the BCS championship did the good times end. The Crimson Tide won in a 42-14 rout on Jan. 7, the hoax was then exposed and suddenly the dream season was tarnished.

So far no law enforcement agencies have indicated they are pursuing a criminal case in the scam, and Notre Dame athletic director Jack Swarbrick in a news conference earlier this week said the university was going to leave it up to Te'o and his family to pursue legal action.

Bennett Kelly, founder of the Internet Law Center in Santa Monica, Calif., said a criminal case of fraud against the perpetrators probably wouldn't work because it appears they took nothing of value (money or other items) from Te'o. The player said at one point the fake girlfriend asked for his checking account number but he declined.

A civil suit would be difficult as well, Kelley said.

"It's not as easy as it's often portrayed," Kelley said. "The context has to be outrageous. There usually has to be some kind of physical manifestation. It can't just be that it was a bummer."

Swarbrick said from the start that it didn't seem as if laws were broken or NCAA rules violated. He had publicly encouraged Te'o to give his side of the story.

"Manti put this to rest for me and the University long ago," Swarbrick said in a text mes-

sage to the AP on Saturday. "I am just glad that everyone (at least everyone open to the facts) now knows what we have long known - that a great young man was the innocent victim of a very cruel hoax."

While fans and the members of the media might not be satisfied with where Te'o has left it, he won't necessarily be compelled to answer to them - just to potential employers starting in February.

At the NFL combine, Te'o will have his physical skills and fitness tested, and he will be interviewed by NFL executives and coaches. He has been projected as a potential first-round draft pick. If his involvement in this hoax sets off red flags for teams and it causes him to slip in April's draft, it could cost him millions of dollars.

Said former Dallas Cowboys general manager and NFL draft consultant Gil Brandt: "Between now and 97 days from now when the draft comes, there'll be a lot of people investigating just what took place."

Rose takes control in Abu Dhabi



ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—Justin Rose extended his

lead at the Abu Dhabi Championship on Saturday, shooting a 4-under 68 to take a two-shot lead over Jamie Donaldson and Thorbjorn Olesen.

A day after top-ranked Rory McIlroy and second-ranked Tiger Woods missed the cut, the fifth-ranked Englishman made his third round look easy with seven birdies. After three-putting on the first for a bogey, Rose had a stretch of six birdies over nine holes—including sinking a 20-footer on No. 5 that gave him back the lead and an approach shot on No. 9 that rolled to 4 feet from the hole for birdie.

"Delighted about the day," said Rose, who has been at the top of the leaderboard all week. "I strengthened my lead, if you like, one to two shots. I guess that's always good."

Olesen (69) and Donaldson (69) struggled to make putts early but finished with birdies to close the gap. Thailand's Thongchai Jaidee (66) finished with two birdies to move into fourth, three shots behind Rose.

Rose cooled down on the back nine, hitting errant drives on Nos. 13 and 17 that led to bogeys and reduced a four-shot lead to two. After Olesen and Donaldson birdied No. 18, Rose responded by nearly chipping in on the same hole and finished with his seventh birdie that gave him a three-round total of 204.

"I was a little bit mad about the bogey at No. 17 because I didn't feel I did an awful lot wrong there," Rose said. "I've been very resilient and

bounced back well."

Olesen and Donaldson struggled to make putts early but finished satisfied to be in the mix coming into Sunday. Olesen hit an approach shot from a sandy rough on 18 that landed a few feet from the pin for a birdie. Donaldson matched him with a clutch putt on 18 for his second birdie in four holes.

"Very happy with the score, 3-under was great," Donaldson said. "A little bit scrappy at the start but (I) recovered really well in places."

Playing alongside Rose, the 52nd-ranked Olesen said he would have to start strong if he was going to overtake the Englishman.

"It looks like he's playing really well but, if I can get some birdies in quickly, I think it can be exciting," said the 52nd-ranked Dane who is paired with Rose for the final round. "I'm going to try to be aggressive tomorrow. I thought I was pretty aggressive today but I didn't hole the putts I needed to."

Thailand's Thongchai Jaidee (66) had seven birdies to move into fourth at 207.

Rose's playing partner Gonzalo Fernandez-Castano of Spain Saturday closed to within a shot of the leader after a birdie on the second. But he had trouble hitting the greens after that and fell back. He showed signs of recovery when he sank a 40-foot putt on the seventh but his drive on No. 16 hit a cart path and bounced into the water for a costly bogey.

Fernandez-Castano finished four shots back and tied for fifth at 208 with Richie Ramsay (67) of Scotland and David Howell (68) of England.

Dig This, Beaches and Vacos advance to semis

By **WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND**
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Dig This, Beaches and Vacos represent the cream of the eight-team crop featured in the NMI Volleyball Association/Godfathers House Bar's Co-Ed Sunset Beach Volleyball Tournament, which started back on Jan. 11 on Fiesta Resort & Spa's sand courts.

The frontrunner squads made it unscathed through the second round of play last Friday and got automatic finals bids this Friday

evening at 5pm.

Dig This, Beaches advanced over the Managaha Boyz, 15-8, and, 15-6; while Vacos defeated Harapwang Face also in two sets, 15-6, and, 15-12.

The lower bracket results include team Managaha and Monam'Ko living on to fight another day.

Managaha ousted Something Fishy, 15-3, and, 15-9; while Monam'Ko eliminated team Fiesta Resort & Spa, 15-10, and, 15-7.

Managaha will take on the



Managaha Boyz and Harapwang Face collides with Monam'Ko in this Friday's lower bracket matches.

Matches were formatted as a best-of-three set series with game point for the first two matches set at 15 with a cap of 21 with the third set played out as a race to seven with the cap removed; up to six players can be on a team and four required

on the court with coed rules in effect at all times.

Modest cash prizes, in-kind gifts, and bragging rights go to the overall winners; the finals are scheduled for February 15.

Fiesta, Brabu, KZMI 103.9 FM, and Gold's Gym also sponsor the event. The proceeds benefit NMIVA's youth volleyball development programs and international travel.

◀ A Managaha Boyz player follows through on an overhand return in this file photo taken during the NMIVA/Godfather's House Bar Co-Ed Sunset Beach Volleyball Tournament, which is being held every Friday through Feb. 15 on Fiesta Resort & Spa's sand courts. **WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND**

DOCOMO

From Page 28

the former wasted a 13-point advantage and collapsed in the final two minutes to hand the latter the come-from-behind victory.

Against Saipan TV (2-2), it was Docomo's turn to play catch up after falling behind at the break, 37-47. Docomo managed to equalize in the third, 65-all, and then continued its uphill climb in the payoff canto for its eight-point win.

Docomo got 4 points apiece from four of its players in the fourth canto to outgun Saipan

TV. George Cruz was one of the contributors for Docomo, making the team's last 4 points to seal the victory. Shane Metran, Rodney Sacramento, and Arthur Montes also added 4 markers apiece.

Saipan TV fell short in its bid to keep the lead and the victory at the end of the fourth, as it was held to only two field goals and two free throws last four minutes of the match. Jun Alipio drilled the last two field goals for Saipan TV. Tim Wesley, who had two early field foals in the fourth, and Mike Umali scored the two other points off their split charities.

The rest of Saipan TV players struggled with Kelvin

Fitial, who had 10 markers after the third period, held to one field goal which he made in the opening minutes of the fourth. Allen Reyes, who had already logged 12 after the third canto, was also limited to 2 points, while Bernard Aquino was worse, adding only one free throw in the fourth to his 11 markers.

Alipio, Aquino, Reyes, and Wesley connected on at least two field goals apiece in the first period to lead Saipan TV to a 28-25 advantage. Docomo Pacific on the other hand leaned heavily on Elgene Mangali in the opening canto, as the shooting forward ex-

ploded for 16 points.

Mangali was then neutralized in the second period, as he nailed only one triple, while Reyes added 8 more markers and Fitial chipped in 6 for Saipan TV, which stretched its lead to 10 at halftime.

In the third period, Mangali regained his shooting touch, scoring 9 markers. He also drew help from his teammates to tie the match. The Docomo Pacific top scorer then went to silent mode anew in the fourth, but his supporting crew was there to save the day and complete the come-from-behind win.

Mangali still led all scorers with his 28 points, while George

added 15, and Metran and Sacramento contributed 12 and 10, respectively. Alipio paced Saipan TV with his 21 markers.

Meanwhile, SSFM and QQ Rent A Car faced in the second game last Friday and results of the match will be reported in *Saipan Tribune's* Tuesday edition.

KENSUKE

From Page 28

sion, eclipsing his own record of 2:20.05 logged on Dec. 3, 2011.

The 16-year-old Kimura competed on Heat 3 of the qualifying races in the 200m backstroke and finished sixth on his group, more than five seconds ahead of China's Yuqin Zheng (2:24.98). Japan's Takeshi Kawamoto topped Heat 3 with his 2:04.71, followed by New Zealand's Bradlee Ashby (2:10.77), Canada's Peter Brothers (2:11.89), and Australia's Jayke Rees (2:14.71).

Only the swimmers with the Top 8 times in the three heats advanced to finals, which Kawamoto eventually ruled after timing in at 2:01.61 and beating Australia's Mitchell Pratt (2:02.52), Lachlan Mcleish (2:05.25), and Nicholas Groenewald (2:05.97), Ashby (2:07.27), Canada's Tefano gardman (2:08.47) and Brothers (2:09.36), and China's Zhou Wang (2:10.29).

Besides the 200m backstroke, Kimura had five other events in Sydney—the 200m freestyle, 100m backstroke, 100m breaststroke, 400m freestyle, 200m IM, and 50m freestyle.

He debuted in the five-day tournament last Thursday and clocked in at 2:06.41 seconds in qualifying race in the 200m freestyle event. He raced on Heat 1 won by Australia's Lachlan Wells (1:56.85). Wells' compatriot Regan Leong went on to take the gold medal in the event after submitting 1:48.97 in the finals.

For his second event in Day 2 of the 30-nation competition,

Docomo Pacific 88—Mangali 28, Crus 15, Metran 12, Sacramento 10, Sison 8, Hernandez 6, Montes 6, Sancianggo 4.

Saipan TV 80—Alipio 21, Reyes 14, Wesley 13, Aquino 12, Fitial 12, Umali 1.

Scoring by quarters: 25-28, 37-47, 65-65, 88-80.

ARMSTRONG

From Page 28

ue, cancer survivor and yellow wristbands notwithstanding.

"I don't like that guy," Armstrong said at one point about himself, a feeling shared by almost anyone who watched.

The verdict is still out on Manti Te'o, who in just the space of a few hours went from a Heisman-contending star linebacker to an Internet punch line. Today's news cycle is so swift that the damage was already done by the time Te'o sat down for a lengthy interview Friday night to paint himself as a victim of a bizarrely cruel hoax.

The online speculation before that was that Te'o might have invented a dead girlfriend as part of a campaign to win the Heisman. The reality seems to be that he was simply incredibly naive and caught up in something he couldn't somehow bring himself to understand.

I mean, we've all had our imaginary playmates, but for most of us we quit talking to them about the age of 8. We certainly didn't stay up all night for weeks at a time listening to them breathe on the phone.

Te'o is the one who should be on Oprah for some counseling and a group hug. Imagine the ratings coup when the tough linebacker with the trusting face confesses his vulnerabilities in a teary prime-time special.

No one wants to hug Armstrong, that's for sure. Not even Oprah, though she did appear concerned when he told her he lost \$75 million on one day

when all his sponsors bailed when the truth they surely already knew became public fodder. Predictably, though, Oprah didn't follow up on how many millions Armstrong still has in the bank—some estimate his accounts still hold \$100 million, all funded by his many lies.

Meanwhile, the verdict on those of us who report all of this is mixed.

Are we all enablers, so eager to beat the next guy on a story that we simply accept the most improbable claims as fact? Armstrong won seven Tour de France titles while racing against riders who were doped and we were supposed to believe he wasn't? Many writers overlooked that, just like they ignored pesky details about Te'o's dead girlfriend, such as the fact there was no record anywhere that Lennay Kekua existed, died, or was injured in a terrible car accident.

Then there's the way we're caught up in a world of instant news that is consumed so vociferously that we can barely keep up trying to feed the beast.

Consider this about the way the Te'o story evolved. After the irreverent—and highly entertaining at times—website Deadspin broke the story about his imaginary friend, there followed a media orgy of trying to first make sense of the story and then advance it. The Notre Dame athletic director helped out by crying at his news conference defending Te'o, providing even more fodder

This was followed Friday with another breathless scoop—the fake girlfriend told Te'o that

she had to fake being dead because some fake drug dealers were out looking for her.

By then things had gotten so bizarre that the player who beat Te'o out for the Heisman weighed in on it. Johnny Football, the Texas A&M quarterback also known as Johnny Manziel, declared that even his "mind was blown."

All along, productivity in offices around the country slowed to a crawl as jokes were traded across Twitter and Facebook about fake dead girlfriends. Things went so far that a minor league baseball team declared a promotion day in honor of Te'o, with an offer of a fake bobblehead of the girlfriend and empty seats next to paying customers for their imaginary friends.

Unlike Armstrong, Te'o has not been accused of being anything more than being duped—having imaginary friends is not a crime—but the bizarre factor is so off the charts that his life will never be the same again.

In his first interview off camera with ESPN's Jeremy Schaap, he denied any wrongdoing and said when people know all the facts they'll know there is no way he could have staged any of it. I tend to believe that, if only because this is a grown man who still seems so childlike that he was so scared to tell his father about the whole thing that his best friend—this one real—had to be there with him.

Unfortunately, the speed of the news cycle is so great that what could just be a cautionary tale about an unsuspecting football player quickly became a

joke around the country. Imaginary pictures of the imaginary girlfriend are everywhere, including one where Clint Eastwood is talking to her in an empty chair.

Even if Te'o did little but embellish the story a bit once he got caught up in the web—and embellish he did with teary stories about the death of a girlfriend he never bothered to go to the hospital to visit—his career could be ruined just because he's now viewed as a rube. Yes, the Internet is a scary place, but how about the NFL on Sundays? Can Te'o handle that is now the question, especially after he was basically a no-show in the BCS title game when this was weighing heavily on his mind?

We're so used to people lying to us that no one is going to be believed anymore. Barry Bonds and Roger Clemens stood trial for it, Tiger Woods lived a lie by trying to get us to believe he was something he wasn't, and Pete Rose lied when he said he didn't bet on baseball.

No one lied like Armstrong, though. Lied for years every time he opened his mouth, never hesitating to unleash his fury on anyone who dared question the lies. He trashed reputations and ruined so many lives he has trouble remembering them all, while amassing a fortune built on his lies along the way.

So when he told Oprah that "I can't lie to you" in answering one question, you immediately knew a lie was coming

Because, unlike with Te'o, everything Armstrong did was terribly real.

the Tsunami Saipan Swimming Center mainstay logged 1:06.75 on Heat 1 of the 100m backstroke. Brazil's Vitor Nascimento Guaraldo Santos (58.69 seconds) ruled the heat, while Kawamoto won the finals with his 54.66 seconds.

Kimura had only one event in Day 3 of the tournament, as he competed in the 100m breaststroke last Friday. He recorded 1:13.13 in the 100m breaststroke preliminary race and was on Heat 2 won by Japan's Kohei Goto (1:02.73). Goto also reigned in the finals with a faster time of 1:02.23.

In the Saturday schedule, besides the 200m backstroke, Kimura was also set to race on Heat 2 of the 400m freestyle, but his time was not posted on the competition website.

For his final day in the tournament (yesterday), the CNMI swimmer submitted 2:19.49 in the 200m IM preliminary race. He was on Heat 2 won by Canada's Evan White (2:07.47), who bowed to Japan's Ryo Fujimoto (2:03.29) in the finals. Kimura also joined the 50m freestyle event and timed in at 27.11 seconds on Heat 3, which Australia's Alexander Graham (23.15 seconds) topped. Graham went on to give Australia a sweep in the medal podium after placing third behind compatriots Luke Percy (22.46 seconds) and Alex Press (22.73 seconds).

Kimura competed in the 6th Australian Youth Olympic Festival as a member of the Oceania Team. He was one of 12 swimmers selected from the region and joined the around 1,700 athletes who participated in 17 sports in the AYOF. (*Saipan Tribune*)

Then at 5pm SIS Green faces off with MBA on the north end with MCS challenging MHS Yellow on the south court.

The final paring feature SSHS meeting MHS Blue on the north side and SIS Green on the south court against KHS at 6pm.

UNBEATEN

From Page 28

at 4pm with MHS Blue taking on KHS on the north court and GCA versus SIS White on the south square.

Weekend Sports

CNMI swimmers record and personal best times made last week's headlines.

Tsunami Saipan Swimming Center's Miku Tammy and Kaito Yanai set new age group marks in their respective age groups after competing in the NMISF Swim Meet held last Saturday at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool. Tammy reset four CNMI age group marks in the girls 9 to 10 division, while Yanai logged three new records in the boys 13 to 14 category.

Swimmers put on a show

Tammy's new records are 33.16 seconds in the 50m butterfly, 5:13.53 in the 400m freestyle, 1:08.14 in the 100m freestyle, and in 2:49.27 in the 200m backstroke, while Yanai established new marks in the 2:39.65 in the 200m breaststroke, 35.10 seconds in the 50m breaststroke, and 1:15.59 in the breaststroke.

Besides Yanai and Tammy, more than 50 other swimmers from Saipan Swim Club and Tsunami Saipan posted PBTs in their respective races. In the morning race of the Northern Mariana Islands Swimming Federation-hosted event, 25 PBTs were made, while 52 were recorded in the afternoon.

In basketball, the various

leagues continued with its regular season games.

In the MISO caging at the Marianas High School Gymnasium, MHS won the inaugural freshman game in the interscholastic league after beating Kagman. The Dolphins also downed the Ayuyus in the varsity and junior varsity matches, while Saipan Southern High

School won its debut in the varsity against Eucon International School and Agape Christian School prevailed in the junior varsity tiff against Southern.

Over at the DLX caging, SSFM kept its unbeaten record after downing Docomo, while the Blue Haus caging resumed at the Garapan Basketball Court. Also at Garapan, Blue

Haus retained its perfect mark in the QQ Cup.

The Garapan court was also the venue of the RBC Holiday Hoops, which crowned KFC/Taco Bell, It Don't Matter, and Super Stars as division champions.

In bowling, Simon Manacop capped his back-to-back championships in the SBA/Budweiser King of the Lanes tournament after beating siblings Ruselle and Raymond Zapanta in the finals at the Capital Bowling Center.



Swimmers plunge into the pool during the NMISF Swim Meet last week at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.



Kaito Yanai, left, races against Kensuke Kimura in the 200m breaststroke event in the NMISF Swim Meet last week at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.



A swimmer gasps for air during the NMISF Swim Meet last week at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.



Tsunami Saipan's Miku Tammy fixes her goggles as she waits for the start of a race in the NMISF Swim Meet last week at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.



KB/ABCD II Market's Jerome Norita drops in a finger roll against a Mobil defender during their game in the QQ Cup last week at the Garapan Basketball Court.



Saipan Southern High School's Bryl Alegre gets off a clean putback against Eucon International School during their game in the MISO caging last week at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.



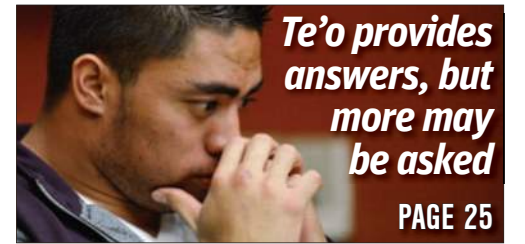
Players of It Don't Matter pose for a team photo after winning the U21 title in the RBC Holiday Hoops Youth Basketball Tournament over the Blazers last week at the Garapan Basketball Court.



Armstrong's
enemies find
vindication,
sadness

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Te'o provides
answers, but
more may
be asked

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28 MONDAY, JANUARY 21, 2013

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Kensuke sets CNMI record in Australia

CNMI swimmer Kensuke Kimura marked a national record in the 6th Australian Youth Olympic Festival last Saturday at the Aquatics Centre of the Sydney Olympic Park in Australia.



Kimura timed in 2:19.12 in the 200m backstroke, breaking the former CNMI record that stood for almost 10 years. Seung-Gin Lee held the previous national mark in the 200m backstroke after posting 2:19.89 on July 25, 2003. Kimura's time in last Saturday's race is also the new age group mark in the 15 to 16 divi-

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Docomo outlasts Saipan TV

Docomo Pacific's Arthur Montes, right, goes up for a baby hook while teammate Shane Metran looks on during their game against SSFM last week in the DLX/Anchor Strong caging at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court. Docomo lost, but bounced back against Saipan TV last Friday.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE



It was Docomo Pacific's time to show poise in the homestretch.

Docomo fought back from a double-digit deficit in the first half and outclassed Saipan TV in the fourth period en route

to an 88-80 victory in the first game in the 2012 DLX/Anchor Strong Invitational Basketball League last Friday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

The win allowed Docomo (2-2) to recover from a sorry loss to SSFM last week when

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Kensuke Kimura, seen here competing in the 200m breaststroke in last week's NMISF Swim Meet at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool, is in Australia and set a new national record in the 200m backstroke race in the 6th Australian Youth Olympic Festival.

Unbeaten Lady Eagles win 5th straight win HS volleyball

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER



The Grace Christian Academy Lady Eagles are soaring high off a five-win spurt since Day 1 of the Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization high school girls volleyball season.

GCA routed Marianas High School's Yellow Lady Dolphins (25-6, 25-9, 15-10) last Tuesday and then went through Saipan Southern High's Lady Manta Rays (25-15, 25-8, 15-9) and Saipan International School's Green Lady Geckos (25-13, 25-20, 15-8) this past Thursday at the MHS Gymnasium.

SIS Green and Mount Carmel School's Lady Knights hold a share of second place in the standings with identical 3-1 win-loss records.

SIS Green picked up a pair of wins last week over MHS Blue Lady Dolphins (25-22, 25-13,



WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Marianas Baptist Academy's Denise Samson, right, fires a spike in last Thursday's MISO high school girls volleyball matchup against Saipan International School's White Lady Geckos at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

9-15) and SSMS (25-15, 25-15, 15-10), while MCS toppled Kagman High's Lady Ayuyus (25-8, 25-10, 15-10), but fell to MHS Blue (19-25, 25-23, 15-11) after taking the opening set.

Behind them comes SIS' White Geckos with a slate of four wins and two faults with MHS Blue sitting in fifth with an even cad of 2W-2L.

Resurging SIS White bested the Lady Ayuyus (25-18, 25-22, 15-10), Lady Rays (25-6, 25-9, 15-10), and Lady Stormz (MBA 25-16, 22-25), 15-9 last week, while MHS Blue also weathered MBA (25-23, 12-25, 15-11) in Round 3.

KHS (1-2), MHS Yellow (1-2), Marianas Baptist Academy's Lady Stormz (1-4) and winless SSMS (0-4) who endured its second forfeit this past week to MHS Yellow.

MISO's fifth round of matches commences tomorrow at the MHS Gym starting

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Armstrong and Te'o, and lies and liars

The verdict is finally in on Lance Armstrong, and it's worse than anyone thought.

His appearance with Oprah was a disaster in so many ways that you wonder how he ever thought she would be the first step on his path to salvation. Armstrong went before her to save his skin and keep a few of his millions, only to be further exposed as a narcissistic, calculating, bike riding sorry excuse for

a human being.

Not only was he—and seemingly still is—a bald faced liar, but also a cold fish who thought nothing of crushing his victims, then dancing on the remains. Even Oprah couldn't humanize him, and when the two-night televised extravaganza was mercifully over, the only logical conclusion is that he is a man with little redeeming val-

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By TIM DAHLBERG
AP Sports Columnist

Tim Dahlberg is a national sports columnist for The Associated Press.

